



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Minister for Women and Equalities
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

T: 020 7211 6000

F: 020 7211 6309

www.gov.uk/dcms

Mr Andrew Copson
Chief Executive
British Humanist Association
39 Moreland Street
London
EC1V 8BB

14 May 2013

HUMANIST MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

I was grateful for the opportunity to continue our discussions about humanist marriage ceremonies and the conduct of marriage by approved organisations at our meeting on the 23 April.

The Government has now seen the revised amendments to the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill tabled by Kate Green and others, and I note the changes that have been made to narrow the scope of the amendments to cover humanist organisations only, as we discussed. The Government has considered these new amendments in the context of current marriage law and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill. However, we remain of the view that the introduction of humanist marriage ceremonies cannot be dealt with in isolation, and that the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill is the wrong mechanism to effect the changes to marriage law that you desire. Therefore the Government is unable to support your amendments.

I realise this will be a disappointment to you, but I would like to thank you for your continued support for same sex marriage.

HELEN GRANT
Minister for Women and Equalities
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

E: enquiries@culture.gsi.gov.uk

