CONSULTATION QUESTIONS
The registration of civil partnerships

Question 1  (Paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13)

Do you agree that legislation should be changed so that civil partnerships could be registered through religious ceremonies?

Yes  
No  ✓
Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer.

Catholic Headteachers Association Of Scotland (CHAS) feels strongly that marriage is the union between one man and one woman. We are also strongly of the view that changing the definition of long held traditions and cultures does not fall within the parameters of government.

Question 2  (Paragraphs 2.14 to 2.19)

Do you think that the proposals in England and Wales on registration of civil partnerships in religious premises would be appropriate for Scotland?

Yes  
No  ✓
Don’t know  

If you have answered no, please explain what elements of the proposals in England and Wales you consider inappropriate for Scotland.

Comments
Question 3  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)

Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in religious premises?

Yes  
No  ✔
Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer

For the same reasons as Question 1 – do not agree that civil partnerships should be consecrated in any way.

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Question 4  (Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.24)

Do you agree with allowing religious celebrants to register civil partnerships in other places agreed between the celebrant and the couple?

Yes  
No  ✔
Don’t know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
Question 5  (Paragraph 2.25)

Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to register civil partnerships?

Yes ☑
No ☐
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Same reasons as previously given (Q1 & 3).

Question 6  (Paragraphs 2.26 and 2.27)

Do you consider that religious celebrants should not be allowed to register civil partnerships if their religious body has decided against registering civil partnerships?

Yes ☑
No ☐
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

The Catholic Church is one church and we cannot, therefore, have factions operating separately from the agreed position.
Question 7 (Paragraphs 2.28 to 2.30)

Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to register civil partnerships?

Yes ☑
No ☐
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

See comment on Q6.

Question 8 (Paragraphs 2.31 to 2.35)

Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to register civil partnerships against their will?

Do you favour:

Option 1 ☐
Option 2 ☑
Neither ☐

If you have another option, please describe it.

Comments
Religious bodies may not wish their premises to be used to register civil partnerships. Do you agree that no legislative provision is required to ensure religious premises cannot be used against the wishes of the relevant religious body?

Yes  □
No   ✔
Don’t know □

Please give reasons for your answer

This question is very confusing and could cause some to think it is mischievously designed to be so.

We believe that we require legislation to ensure that the Catholic community has the capacity to see marriage administered according to its traditions and teachings in Catholic churches.
### Same sex marriage

**Question 10** (Paragraphs 3.11 and 3.12)

Do you agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to allow same sex marriage?

- Yes
- No [✓]
- Don’t know

Please give reasons for your answer

No, we do not agree that the law should not be changed to allow same sex marriage nor do we agree that legislation should be changed so that civil partnerships could be registered through religious ceremonies.

We already have arrangements for civil partnerships to address any perceived legal and financial inequalities and we firmly believe that marriage is the union between one man and one woman. This emanates directly from the teachings of Christ which are fundamental to our faith.

Therefore, this is about preserving the civil rights of people of faith as well as those who this consultation is about.

**Question 11** (Paragraph 3.13)

Do you agree that religious bodies and celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

- Yes [✓]
- No
- Don’t know

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
Question 12  (Paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18)

Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex civil marriage only?

Yes  
No  ☑
Don't know  

Please give reasons for your answer

Comments
We object to marriage being redefined in this way. Please see previous comments regarding the violation of the integrity of the concept of marriage.

Question 13  (Paragraph 3.19)

Do you agree with the introduction of same-sex marriage, both religious and civil?

Yes  
No  ☑
Don't know  

Please give reasons for your answer

See comment for Q12.
Question 14 (Paragraphs 3.23 and 3.24)
Do you agree that religious bodies should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?
Yes ☑
No ☐
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

As confusing as Q9 and, therefore, increases suspicion around this consultation.

See comment for Q9.

Question 15 (Paragraphs 3.25 and 3.26)
Do you consider that religious celebrants should not be allowed to solemnise same sex marriages if their religious body has decided against solemnising same sex marriage?
Yes ☑
No ☐
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

See comment for Q6.
Question 16  (Paragraphs 3.27 and 3.28)

Do you agree that individual religious celebrants should not be required to solemnise same sex marriage?

Yes  ✔
No    ☐
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer

Question 17  (Paragraphs 3.29 to 3.33)

Which of the options do you favour to ensure that religious bodies and celebrants do not have to solemnise same sex marriage against their will?

Do you favour:
Option 1 ☐
Option 2  ✔
Neither  ☐
Don’t know ☐

Please give reasons for your answer and if you have another option, please describe it.

Comments
Question 18 (Paragraphs 3.34 to 3.39)

Religious bodies may not wish their premises to be used to solemnise same sex marriage. Do you agree that no legislative provision is required to ensure religious premises cannot be used against the wishes of the relevant religious body?

Yes [ ]
No [✓]
Don’t know [ ]

Please give reasons for your answer

Again a badly worded question and now we are more firmly of the view that this consultation is somewhat disingenuous.

See comment on Q9.

Question 19 (Paragraph 3.41)

If Scotland should introduce same-sex marriage, do you consider that civil partnerships should remain available?

Yes [ ]
No [ ]
Don’t know [ ]

Please give reasons for your answer

We reject the notion of same-sex marriage; the question is, therefore, invalid.
Many of the questions in this consultation are confusing and, therefore, we are left with the impression this was calculated and not merely ineffective technique.

We have serious concerns about the impact of such legislation on teaching in the Catholic school. It would seem that this proposed legislation would cut across the Equalities Act 2010 which enshrines the rights of teachers in ‘faith schools’ to promote the doctrines of the denominational body. It would become impossible for teachers in Catholic schools to teach according to the doctrines of the Catholic Church, as our communities expect us to do. This is clearly outlined in the Charter for Catholic schools which states that “the mission of the school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good.”

Our schools have an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God. Our religious education programmes enable young people to develop their understanding of Gospel values and of how to apply them to life and we recognise our commitment to uphold the moral teaching, faith tradition and sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Our teachers would be placed in an impossible situation if they were required to teach children that Marriage is only a legal contract between any two people when we believe that it is a union between one man and one woman, blessed by God and sanctified in a Church.

Our schools are successful and often held up by the Scottish Government as examples of good practice. To quote the First Minister from the Cardinal Winning Lecture of 2008: “I believe the record of Catholic schools in Scotland is second to none . . . All faith schools play a significant role in helping to shape, inspire and strengthen our young people to learn . . . And they do so by endowing our children with a strong moral foundation . . . The ‘Called to Love’ programme and ‘Values for Life’ are prime examples.”

We have little confidence in the assurances that there will be no detriment to any religious denomination if this flawed legislation were to be enacted. We believe that it is difficult to see these assurances as anything but hollow when we reflect on previous assurances such as those given to Catholic Adoption agencies.

We cannot understand why Scottish Government are choosing to devote resources to this consultation when there are so many other issues of concern affecting our communities. We ask that the Scottish Government listens to our real concerns and abandons this flawed proposal.