

Email from **John McDonnell MP**

5 February 2013

Dear John,

Thank you for your email with regard to the Same Sex marriage Bill that is being debated today.

I understand that you are not one of my constituent's however I am happy to respond. I have listened very carefully to everyone who has contacted me on all sides of this argument.

I have come to the view to support the Bill as I feel that people who love one another should be allowed to express this love in the form of marriage without being discriminated against on grounds of sexual preference.

I am aware that some people do not agree with this view and have expressed concerns about the impact on their church or their employment and other activities in our community. The Government has given the assurance under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights that their own and their church's or religious group's religious freedoms will be protected.

Although we have to agree to disagree on this issue you may rest assured that I have considered your views respectfully and taken them fully into account.

Best wishes,

John