

Email from the office of the **Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP**

28 February 2013

Dear Mr Dexter

Thank you for writing to me and for giving me your views regarding equal marriage. I must apologise for the length of time it has taken for me to respond to you on this issue, but both as a Liberal and a Christian, I wanted to ensure that I had given due consideration to the arguments presented from both sides of the debate. The issue, understandably, has also generated a very large number of communications to me.

You will probably be aware that the bill passed by 400 votes to 175. It will now progress to the second reading stage. It is important to note however that, although this legislation is being progressed in Westminster, marriage remains a devolved issue. *Therefore, any legislative change in Westminster will not affect Scotland.*

. . . [*He continues with his main argument, set out in the statement shown above*] . . .

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this vital issue of legitimate public concern.

Given your interest I have included with this letter some information which explains the Bill in greater depth. I hope that this may be of some use in clarifying some key aspects of the legislation itself.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP