

NIO Consultation Responses on Same Sex Marriage

You can access the consultation in the following way

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/F6WA0/

Christian Institute recommends

Answering the questions

Online, the questions start on the tenth page of the response form. The previous pages explain the context of the consultation.

We suggest selecting 'Yes, I agree' for each of the first eight questions, but you can skip any you don't wish to answer by clicking 'Next Page'.

The ninth question is only for those who represent a religious body.

After these questions, there is one compulsory question asking whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. You do not have to answer the demographic questions that follow.

On page 21, click 'Finish Survey'.

1. Do you agree that consent of the governing authority should be required before officiants can be appointed to solemnise same-sex religious marriage?

- ☒ Yes, I agree
- ☐ No, I do not agree
- ☐ Not sure

2. Do you agree that officiants should be free to choose whether to solemnise same-sex marriages, even where their religious body chooses to consent to such marriages?

- ☒ Yes, I agree
- ☐ No, I do not agree
- ☐ Not sure

3. Do you agree with the proposed general definition of “governing authority”, whose consent is required for religious bodies to solemnise same-sex religious marriages?

Please note the general definition of “governing authority” in Northern Ireland is: ‘the person or persons recognised by the members of the religious body as competent for the purpose of giving consent’.

- ☒ Yes, I agree
- ☐ No, I do not agree
- ☐ Not sure

4. Do you agree that the definition of governing authority should also include a person or body (such as a recognised decision-making body) that, on request, is specified in regulations?

- ☒ Yes, I agree
- ☐ No, I do not agree
- ☐ Not sure

5. Do you agree that no religious bodies or persons acting on behalf or under the auspices of such bodies should be compelled to undertake specified activities relating to same-sex marriage?

- ☒ Yes, I agree
- ☐ No, I do not agree
- ☐ Not sure

6. Do you agree that religious bodies (including persons acting on their behalf and under their auspices) and officiants should not be compelled to undertake the core functions specified in paragraph 49?

- ☒ Yes, I agree
- ☐ No, I do not agree
- ☐ Not sure

7. Do you agree that the existing protections plus the exceptions we are proposing to the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 and the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 cover the services a religious body or person acting on its behalf might provide to the public in connection with same-sex marriage?

- ☒ Yes, I agree
- ☐ No, I do not agree
- ☐ Not sure

8. Do you agree that the proposed protections (set out in sections 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9) relating to consent, non-compulsion and equality law exceptions are appropriate for ministers/chaplains working in secular organisations?

- ☒ Yes, I agree
- ☐ No, I do not agree
- ☐ Not sure

The ninth question is only for those who represent a religious body.

10. Are you responding as an individual or are you representing the views of an organisation? *

- ☒ Individual
- ☐ On behalf of an organisation

You do not need to answer the remaining questions.

Do not forget to click 'Finish Survey' on page 21.