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Dr Hywel Francis MP  
Chair  
Joint Committee on Human Rights  
House of Commons  
7 Millbank  
London SW1A 0AA

CMS 233390/asg  
8 July 2013

Dear Hywel

**Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill**

I am grateful for the consideration that the Joint Committee on Human Rights has given to this Bill, and for the Report that the Committee published on 14<sup>th</sup> June. I recognise that the Committee found some of the issues to be complex, and am grateful for the care the Committee has taken to produce a balanced report.

I note in particular that in some cases the Committee felt unable to come up with a specific recommendation, but instead drew attention to particular concerns that had been raised, asking the Government to consider once again its position in respect of those issues. We have considered this Report, and those issues, very carefully. I set out the Government's response in the Annex attached to this letter.

*Best wishes,*

**Rt Hon Maria Miller MP**

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport  
and Minister for Women and Equalities

