

CMS 224550/DC

Dr Hywel Francis MP
Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA



department for
**culture, media
and sport**

5 February 2013

Dear Hywel,

MARRIAGE (SAME SEX COUPLES) BILL: HUMAN RIGHTS

You will have seen that Maria Miller has made, on the front of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill, the statement affirming its compatibility with the Convention rights.

We have given careful consideration to the human rights implications of the Bill's measures. I thought it would be helpful, given the Committee's interest in this Bill and its relationship to human rights obligations, to send you a separate summary of the issues which the Government Equalities Office has identified, and which formed the basis on which Maria Miller signed the statement.

I am sending a copy of this letter and the attachment to the Chair and members of the Public Bill Committee, and placing copies in the House Libraries.

Yours etc,

Hgr

**RT HON HUGH ROBERTSON MP
Minister for Sport and Tourism**