



### **Section 3**

**Relevant governing authority** means the person or persons recognised by the members of the relevant religious organisation as competent for the purpose of giving consent for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples within the building.

**Relevant religious organisation** means the religious organisation for whose religious purposes the building is being used.

You must enclose a copy of the relevant governing authority's written consent to the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples with your application.

### **Section 4**

A church qualifies as a **sharing church** if it is subject to a sharing agreement under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act 1969; is used as mentioned in section 6(4) of that Act (shared university or hospital chapels, etc.), or if it is one:

- a) on whose behalf the trustees hold the building on trust, or
- b) that has used the building for public religious worship on 2 or more occasions (of more than 30 minutes each) in either:
  - i) each of the last six months prior to the date of the certificate
  - ii) or nine of the last 12 months prior to the date of the certificate.

You must list all of the religious organisations which qualify as sharing churches in this section of the form and indicate whether the relevant governing authority of each has given their written consent to the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples and/or their written consent for the building to be used for that purpose.

### **Section 5**

A shared church may only be registered for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples if:

- a) at least one of the qualifying sharing churches provides written consent to the marriage of same sex couples,

and

- b) each of the other qualifying sharing churches provides separate written consent to the use of the shared building for the solemnization of marriages of same sex couples (a 'consent to use').