

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11th November 2016

Dear Constituent,

RE: CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Thank you for contacting me about the future of civil partnerships.

The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 had a specific focus on extending marriage to same-sex couples who could not previously marry. The Act did, however, stipulate that there should be a review of civil partnership in England and Wales.

The Government carried out a full public consultation on the future and operation of civil partnership in 2014, receiving almost 11,500 responses, during which a range of views were expressed. The majority of respondents were against broadening civil partnerships to include opposite sex couples. The decision not to extend civil partnerships to opposite sex couples was recently subject to Judicial Review that found the current system does not discriminate against heterosexual couples. I agree that the current regime of marriage and civil partnership does not disadvantage opposite sex couples.

Some people have expressed concern that the continued availability of civil partnerships only for same sex couples could result in inequality and unfairness for opposite sex couples. On the other hand, some feel that with marriage now available for all couples, the need for civil partnerships falls away. There is, of course, the option for all those in a civil partnership to convert it into a marriage; however I recognise that not all couples in civil partnerships wish to do this. I believe that it is entirely reasonable for the Government to wait to see the impact of extending marriage to same sex couples before deciding on the way forward.

For these reasons, I will not be signing EDM 619. However, I will continue to follow the subject closely.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.