

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTTISH LAW COMMISSION
18 NOVEMBER 2015

Review of Defamation Law

The Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission, Lord Pentland, today welcomed the interest and support for the Commission's current project on reform of defamation law expressed by 115 signatories to a letter published in the Herald newspaper.

Lord Pentland said:

'We are well-advanced with our work in the important and sensitive area of defamation law reform and are on course to publish a detailed discussion paper in the early part of next year. This will provide a framework for what we are confident will be a lively and open public debate about freedom of speech and related issues in modern Scotland and the role of the law in safeguarding these rights. There has been important recent reform in England and Wales with the Defamation Act 2013 and there is a need to consider in detail the extent to which that serves as a suitable model for reform of Scots law. In the light of the consultation exercise, the Scottish Law Commission will make recommendations to the Scottish Government on the need for and content of legislation.'

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The Scottish Law Commission was set up in 1965 to promote the reform of the law of Scotland. The Chairman is the Hon Lord Pentland, a Court of Session judge. The other Commissioners are Caroline Drummond, David Johnston QC, Professor Hector L MacQueen, and Dr Andrew J M Steven. The Chief Executive is Malcolm McMillan.

2. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Scottish Law Commission, 140 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1PR (Tel: 0131 668 2131, Fax: 0131 662 4900, email: info@scotlawcom.gsi.gov.uk).