

**From:** Marion Sinclair  
**Sent:** 17 June 2016 15:39  
**To:** SLC info  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** The discussion of the Defamation laws in Scotland

To whom it may concern,

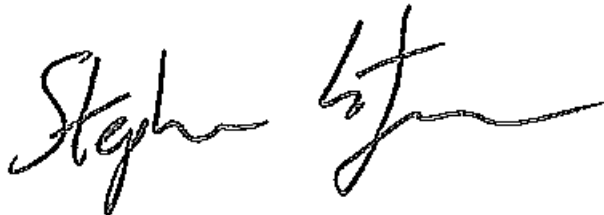
The Publishers Association, based in London, and Publishing Scotland, in Edinburgh, bodies representing the book publishing sector in the UK, are writing to endorse the submission made by the Libel Reform Campaign to the Scottish Law Commission's discussion paper on Defamation.

Book publishers publish titles in print and digital formats for UK and international markets. The differences between the laws pertaining to defamation/libel within the UK, particularly between Scotland and Northern Ireland on the one hand, and England and Wales on the other, mean that there is an uneven terrain of different rules that is not conducive to freedom of speech and to publish, and can be a barrier to both.

An update on the laws would also be desirable to take into account the new platforms and methods of publication used by publishers that have developed in the past twenty years.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Lotinga,  
Chief Executive,  
Publishers Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Lotinga', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marion Sinclair,  
Chief Executive,  
Publishing Scotland

Signed jointly.

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Publishing Scotland is the trade and network body for the book publishing sector in Scotland.