

Dear member of the Scottish Law Commission

It is very heartening to see the proposed changes to the libel laws in Scotland in the working draft bill. Inclusion of a serious harm test, a single publication rule, a reduction of the time limit for bringing proceedings and the introduction of a public interest defence is a huge step in the right direction.

The bill needs to be further strengthened by further enhancing the public interest defence to bring it in-line with the law in England and Wales and by removing the opportunity for corporations to be able to sue for libel.

Corporations do not need to be able to sue for libel - they have other defences that can be used to protect their business interests and do not have a private life, personal identity or psychological integrity that requires that ability - a claim of libel is something that should be reserved for use by a natural person.

sincerely
ADRIAN

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ADRIAN van den Heever