

I was cheered to read about the new defamation law but have one huge reservation:

The public interest defence is weaker than in the Defamation Act 2013, and this is a serious disadvantage; it is open to abuse.

It leaves wealthy and powerful corporations with the right to sue the right to sue, and it seem likely that some will pursue and harass individuals, particularly whistleblowers. Defamation law was designed to protect the rights of individuals: corporate bodies do not have a private life, personal identity or psychological integrity. Corporations also have other means to defend themselves, such as malicious falsehood and laws governing advertising, competition and business practices. Thus they do not need protection under defamation law.

Caroline Richmond