

Dear SLC,

My attention has been drawn to the working draft to reform the defamation law. I believe there are still weaknesses in what is drafted so far.

The public interest defence should be no weaker than it is in the Defamation Act 2013. It should be robust. Defamation law was designed to protect the rights of individuals. It is important to bear in mind that corporate bodies do not have a private life, personal identity or psychological integrity. Furthermore, corporations have other means to defend themselves, such as malicious falsehood and laws governing advertising, competition and business practices - they do not need protection under defamation law.

Defamation law in Scotland needs to be as strong - or stronger - than the Defamation Act 2013. Please ensure it meets this standard.

Thank you

David McDowall