

Dear sir or madam,

As an academic, at constant risk of action should I say anything against the large corporations that my life's work has been to question, I am seriously concerned that such an integrally egalitarian society as Scotland should be putting forward a weaker set of defamation law reforms than those already place in England.

Points that have been brought to my attention are:

The public interest defence is weaker than in the Defamation Act 2013. The public interest defence is new to Scots law, so it's fantastic to see its introduction, but it must be robust. Corporations would still have the right to sue. 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 - they do not need protection under defamation law.

Yours sincerely

Dr Glyn Walsh