

May I congratulate you on this welcome draft?

I have concerns about the ability of corporations to sue for defamation. Corporations already have many avenues to challenge unwelcome comments on their activities and are often much better equipped to use them than are individuals. I also understand that the original law was designed to be used between individuals and that corporations cannot be harmed in the same ways as individuals can. Unscrupulous corporations could easily use this means to silence valid criticism of their activities.

I believe that the defence of Public Interest needs to be more robust. The draft seems weaker in this regard than that in the Defamation Act 2013; I believe that it should be stronger rather than weaker.

Thank you for your consideration,

Geoffrey Lake