

It has been my concern for some years that big corporations have been able to individually attack those publishing properly conducted research particularly in the field of medicine where the suppression of results suggesting problems with drugs and devices have obvious safety concerns for patients.

Much of the suggested content of the Scottish reforms is welcome. However I am concerned to see that corporations would have the right to sue. Defamation law should protect the individual, not corporations who have other redress such as malicious falsehood.

I feel there is also concern that the public interest defence will be weaker than the Defamation Act 2013. These proposals may open a door for corporations to use Scottish jurisdiction to stifle the proper dissemination of research information.

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