

Dear SLC

I would like to add my input to the draft defamation bill

- The public interest defence is weaker than in England's Defamation Act 2013.

- Corporations 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.

Defamation law in Scotland needs to be as strong - or stronger - than the Defamation Act 2013. I cannot support a law for Scotland that doesn't meet at least that standard.

Yours etc

John Mortimer