

To whom it may concern,

Re: new Defamation law Scotland

I am writing to request some changes to the proposed new Defamation law for Scotland. I am in general happy with the proposals but would like to express some concerns and ask for relevant changes as outlined below:

1) The public interest defence is weaker than in the Defamation Act 2013. I would like this aspect to be strengthened to ensure that matters that have a genuine public interest do not face prosecution for defamation.

2) Corporations should not 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. I do not want to see situations such as the 'MacLibel' case happening again.

I hope that these changes can be incorporated into the new law.

Yours faithfully,
Peter Heine

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