

Hello,

I don't know whether you're interested in the opinions of people who don't live in Scotland, but I read about your draft bill to reform defamation law. It has some good points, such as the single publication rule, and the introduction of a public interest defence (section 6) is essential, but the latter is weaker than in the Defamation Act 2013, so there's a risk that people will sue in Scotland when they have a weak case that wouldn't succeed elsewhere in the UK, which I don't think is what you intended.

Also, corporations would still have the right to sue. Corporations don't have a private life to protect, and they can use the law relating to malicious falsehood to protect themselves against baseless allegations. Allowing them to sue for defamation is unnecessary and tends to lead to bullying their critics into silence, because most people don't have the stamina of the defendants in the notorious Macdonald's case.

Yours sincerely,  
Susan Francis

---



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

---

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.  
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

---

\*\*\*\*\*

This email has been received from an external party and  
has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

\*\*\*\*\*