

Dear SLC

I am pleased to see some changes in the proposed Bill to reform libel laws and defamation in Scotland, for example section 1(2)(b) serious harm test, the single publication rule section 30(3), reduction of time to bring a case, the Derbyshire principle (section 2) and the introduction of a public interest defence (section 6).

However, concerns remain that the public interest defence is weaker than the Defamation Act 2013, and 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.

Please, make this law as robust as possible. Defamation law in Scotland needs to be as strong - or stronger - than the Defamation Act 2013. This is the right thing to do.

Kind regards,
Kay Townsend