

Dear Madam / Sir

I am concerned about the following points in the draft bill:

- The public interest defence is weaker than in the Defamation Act 2013. The public interest defence is new to Scots law, so it's fantastic to see its introduction, but it must be robust.
- Corporations would still have the right to sue which I think is unacceptable. 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 believe that defamation law in Scotland needs to be as strong - or stronger - than the Defamation Act 2013 and we should not support a law for Scotland that doesn't meet at least that standard. Please will you consider substantive reform on this points?

Yours sincerely
Gabriella Braun