



# Defamation Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 31

### *Supplementary provisions*

#### **17 Interpretation.**

(1) In this Act—

“publication” and “publish”, in relation to a statement, have the meaning they have for the purposes of the law of defamation generally, but “publisher” is specially defined for the purposes of section 1;

“statement” means words, pictures, visual images, gestures or any other method of signifying meaning; and

“statutory provision” means—

(a) a provision contained in an Act or in subordinate legislation within the meaning of the <sup>M1</sup>Interpretation Act 1978

[<sup>F1</sup>(aa) a provision contained in an Act of the Scottish Parliament or in an instrument made under such an Act,]or

(b) a statutory provision within the meaning given by section 1(f) of the <sup>M2</sup>Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.

(2) In this Act as it applies to proceedings in Scotland—

“costs” means expenses; and

“plaintiff” and “defendant” mean pursuer and defender.

#### **Extent Information**

**E1** S. 17 extends to the United Kingdom; s. 17(2) extends to Scotland see s. 18(1)(2)(3).

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F1** S. 17(1)(aa) inserted (6.5.1999) by 1998 c. 46, s. 125, **Sch. 8**, para. 33(2)(with s. 126(3)-(11)); S. I. 1998/3178, art. 2(2), **Sch. 3**

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*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2014. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects  
for the Defamation Act 1996, Section 17. (See end of Document for details)*

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#### **Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 17 partly in force; s. 17 partly in force at Royal Assent see s. 19(2)(3); s. 17 in force for certain purposes at 1.4.1999 by S.I. 1999/817, **art. 2(a)**; s. 17(1) fully in force for E.W. at 28.2.2000 by S.I. 2000/222, **art. 3**; s. 17 in force for S. at 31.3.2001 insofar as not already in force by S.S.I. 2001/98, **art. 3(b)(ii)**
- I2** S. 17(1) in force at 6.1.2010 for N.I. in so far as not already in force by S.I. 2009/2858, **art. 3(d)**

#### **Marginal Citations**

- M1** 1978 c. 30.  
**M2** 1954 c. 33 (N.I.).

**Status:**

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**Changes to legislation:**

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