



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 Interpretation Act 1978, or
- (b) a statutory provision within the meaning given by section 1(f) of the 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.