



Defamation Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 31

General provisions

19 Commencement

- (1) Sections 18 to 20 (extent, commencement and other general provisions) come into force on Royal Assent.
- (2) The following provisions of this Act come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed—
 - section 1 (responsibility for publication),
 - sections 5 and 6 (time limit for actions for defamation or malicious falsehood),
 - section 12 (evidence of convictions),
 - section 13 (evidence concerning proceedings in Parliament),
 - section 16 and the repeals in Schedule 2, so far as consequential on the above provisions, and
 - section 17 (interpretation), so far as relating to the above provisions.
- (3) The provisions of this Act otherwise come into force on such day as may be appointed—
 - (a) for England and Wales or Northern Ireland, by order of the Lord Chancellor, or
 - (b) for Scotland, by order of the Secretary of State,and different days may be appointed for different purposes.
- (4) Any such order shall be made by statutory instrument and may contain such transitional provisions as appear to the Lord Chancellor or Secretary of State to be appropriate.