



# Northern Ireland Act 1998

## 1998 CHAPTER 47

### PART IV

#### THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

##### *Miscellaneous*

#### **50 Privilege**

- (1) For the purposes of the law of defamation, absolute privilege shall attach to—
  - (a) the making of a statement in proceedings of the Assembly; and
  - (b) the publication of a statement under the Assembly's authority.
- (2) A person is not guilty of contempt of court under the strict liability rule as the publisher of any matter—
  - (a) in the course of proceedings of the Assembly which relate to a Bill or subordinate legislation; or
  - (b) to the extent that it consists of a fair and accurate report of such proceedings which is made in good faith.
- (3) In this section—
  - “statement” has the same meaning as in the Defamation Act 1996;
  - “the strict liability rule” has the same meaning as in the Contempt of Court Act 1981.