

*These notes refer to the Defamation Act 2013 (c.26)
which received Royal Assent on 25 April 2013*

DEFAMATION ACT 2013

EXPLANATORY NOTES

BACKGROUND

4. The Government's Coalition Agreement gave a commitment to review the law of defamation, and on 9 July 2010 the Government announced its intention to publish a draft Defamation Bill. The *Draft Defamation Bill* (Cm 8020) was published for full public consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny on 15 March 2011.
5. The public consultation closed on 10 June 2011. The Ministry of Justice received 129 responses from a range of interested parties. A comprehensive summary of the responses received was published on 24 November 2011 (*Draft Defamation Bill Summary of Responses to Consultation CP(R) 3/11*). In addition to the Government consultation, pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Bill was undertaken by a Parliamentary Joint Committee. The committee held oral evidence sessions between April and July 2011 and its final report was published on 19 October 2011 (*The Joint Committee on the Draft Defamation Bill Report* Session 2010-2012, HL 203, HC 930-I).
6. The Government response to the Joint Committee's report was published on 29 February 2012 (*The Government's Response to the Report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Defamation Bill* Cm 8295) and set out the Government's conclusions including on certain matters raised in the public consultation but not specifically addressed in the Committee's report.