



# Defamation Act 1996

## CHAPTER 31

### DEFAMATION ACT 1996

#### *Responsibility for publication*

- 1 Responsibility for publication.

#### *Offer to make amends*

- 2 Offer to make amends.
- 3 Accepting an offer to make amends.
- 4 Failure to accept offer to make amends.

#### *Limitation*

- 5 Limitation of actions: England and Wales.
- 6 Limitation of actions: Northern Ireland.

#### *The meaning of a statement*

- 7 Ruling on the meaning of a statement.

#### *Summary disposal of claim*

- 8 Summary disposal of claim.
- 9 Meaning of summary relief.
- 10 Summary disposal: rules of court.
- 11 Summary disposal: application to Northern Ireland.

#### *Evidence of convictions*

- 12 Evidence of convictions.

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

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*Evidence concerning proceedings in Parliament*

- 13 Evidence concerning proceedings in Parliament.

*Statutory privilege*

- 14 Reports of court proceedings absolutely privileged.  
15 Reports, &c. protected by qualified privilege.

*Supplementary provisions*

- 16 Repeals.  
17 Interpretation.

*General provisions*

- 18 Extent.  
19 Commencement.  
20 Short title and saving.

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Qualified privilege

Part I — STATEMENTS HAVING QUALIFIED PRIVILEGE WITHOUT EXPLANATION OR CONTRADICTION

- 1 A fair and accurate report of proceedings in public of...  
2 A fair and accurate report of proceedings in public before...  
3 A fair and accurate report of proceedings in public of...  
4 A fair and accurate report of proceedings in public anywhere...  
5 A fair and accurate copy of or extract from any...  
6 A notice or advertisement published by or on the authority...  
7 A fair and accurate copy of or extract from matter...  
8 A fair and accurate copy of or extract from matter...

Part II — STATEMENTS PRIVILEGED SUBJECT TO EXPLANATION OR CONTRADICTION

- 9 (1) A fair and accurate copy of or extract from...  
10 A fair and accurate copy of or extract from a...  
11 (1) A fair and accurate report of proceedings at any...  
11A A fair and accurate report of proceedings at a press...  
12 (1) A fair and accurate report of proceedings at any...  
13 (1) A fair and accurate report of proceedings at a...  
14 A fair and accurate report of any finding or decision...  
14A A fair and accurate— (a) report of proceedings of a...  
15 (1) A fair and accurate report of, or copy of...

Part III — SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

- 16 (1) In this Schedule— “ court ” includes any tribunal...  
17 (1) Provision may be made by order identifying—

SCHEDULE 2 — Repeals

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Defamation Act 1996.