



Defamation Act 2013

2013 CHAPTER 26

General provisions

15 Meaning of “publish” and “statement” **E+W+S**

[^{F1}In this Act—

“publish” and “publication”, in relation to a statement, have the meaning they have for the purposes of the law of defamation generally;

“statement” means words, pictures, visual images, gestures or any other method of signifying meaning.]

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 15 repealed (S.) (8.8.2022) by [Defamation and Malicious Publication \(Scotland\) Act 2021 \(asp 10\)](#), ss. [35\(4\)\(a\)](#), [39\(2\)](#); S.S.I. 2022/154, regs. [1\(2\)](#), [2](#)

16 Consequential amendments and savings etc **E+W+S**

- (1) Section 8 of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (defamation actions) is amended in accordance with subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) In subsection (3) for “of justification or fair comment or” substitute “ under section 2 or 3 of the Defamation Act 2013 which is available to him or any defence ”.
- (3) In subsection (5) for “the defence of justification” substitute “ a defence under section 2 of the Defamation Act 2013 ”.
- (4) Nothing in section 1 or 14 affects any cause of action accrued before the commencement of the section in question.
- (5) [^{F2}Nothing in sections 2 to 7 or 10 has effect in relation to an action for defamation if the cause of action accrued before the commencement of the section in question.]
- (6) In determining whether section 8 applies, no account is to be taken of any publication made before the commencement of the section.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Defamation Act 2013, Cross Heading: General provisions. (See end of Document for details)

- (7) Nothing in section 9 or 11 has effect in relation to an action for defamation begun before the commencement of the section in question.
- (8) In determining for the purposes of subsection (7)(a) of section 3 whether a person would have a defence under section 4 to any action for defamation, the operation of subsection (5) of this section is to be ignored.

Textual Amendments

- F2** S. 16(5) repealed (S.) (8.8.2022) by Defamation and Malicious Publication (Scotland) Act 2021 (asp 10), **ss. 35(4)(a)**, 39(2); S.S.I. 2022/154, regs. 1(2), 2

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 16 partly in force; s. 16(4)-(8) in force at Royal Assent, see s. 17(6)
- I2** S. 16(1)-(3) in force at 1.1.2014 by S.I. 2013/3027, **art. 2**

17 Short title, extent and commencement **E+W+S**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Defamation Act 2013.
- (2) ^{F3}...This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- ^{F4}(3)
- (4) Subject to [^{F5}subsection] (6), the provisions of this Act come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint.
- ^{F6}(5)
- (6) Section 15, subsections (4) to (8) of section 16 and this section come into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in s. 17(2) repealed (S.) (8.8.2022) by Defamation and Malicious Publication (Scotland) Act 2021 (asp 10), **ss. 35(4)(b)(i)**, 39(2); S.S.I. 2022/154, regs. 1(2), 2
- F4** S. 17(3) repealed (S.) (8.8.2022) by Defamation and Malicious Publication (Scotland) Act 2021 (asp 10), **ss. 35(4)(b)(ii)**, 39(2); S.S.I. 2022/154, regs. 1(2), 2
- F5** Word in s. 17(4) substituted (S.) (8.8.2022) by Defamation and Malicious Publication (Scotland) Act 2021 (asp 10), **ss. 35(4)(b)(iii)**, 39(2); S.S.I. 2022/154, regs. 1(2), 2
- F6** S. 17(5) repealed (S.) (8.8.2022) by Defamation and Malicious Publication (Scotland) Act 2021 (asp 10), **ss. 35(4)(b)(ii)**, 39(2); S.S.I. 2022/154, regs. 1(2), 2

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Defamation Act 2013, Cross Heading:
General provisions.