



# Defamation Act 2013

## 2013 CHAPTER 26

### *General provisions*

#### **15 Meaning of “publish” and “statement”**

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.

#### **16 Consequential amendments and savings etc**

- (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) 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.
- (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.

**17 Short title, extent and commencement**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Defamation Act 2013.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), this Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (3) The following provisions also extend to Scotland—
- (a) section 6;
  - (b) section 7(9);
  - (c) section 15;
  - (d) section 16(5) (in so far as it relates to sections 6 and 7(9));
  - (e) this section.
- (4) Subject to subsections (5) and (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.
- (5) Sections 6 and 7(9) come into force in so far as they extend to Scotland on such day as the Scottish Ministers may by order appoint.
- (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.