



# Law of Libel Amendment Act 1888

1888 CHAPTER 64 51 and 52 Vict

<sup>F1</sup><sup>F24</sup> **Newspaper reports of proceedings of public meetings and of certain bodies and persons privileged.**

A fair and accurate report published in any newspaper of the proceedings of a public meeting, or (except where neither the public nor any newspaper reporter is admitted) of any meeting of a vestry, town council, school board, board of guardians, board of local authority formed or constituted under the provisions of any Act of Parliament, or of any committee appointed by any of the above-mentioned bodies, or of any meeting of any commissioners authorised to act by letters patent, Act of Parliament, warrant under the Royal Sign Manual, or other lawful warrant or authority, select committees of either House of Parliament, justices of the peace in quarter sessions assembled for administrative or deliberative purposes, and the publication at the request of any Government office or department, officer of state, commissioner of police, or chief constable of any notice or report issued by them for the information of the public shall be privileged, unless it shall be proved that such report or publication was published or made maliciously: Provided that nothing in this section shall authorise the publication of any [<sup>F3</sup>blasphemous or] indecent matter: Provided also, that the protection intended to be afforded by this section shall not be available as a defence in any proceedings if it shall be proved that the defendant has been requested to insert in the newspaper in which the report or other publication complained of appeared a reasonable letter or statement by way of contradiction or explanation of such report or other publication, and has refused or neglected to insert the same: Provided further, that nothing in this section contained shall be deemed or construed to limit or abridge any privilege now by law existing, or to protect the publication of any matter not of public concern and the publication of which is not for the public benefit.

For the purposes of this section “public meeting” shall mean any meeting bona fide and lawfully held for a lawful purpose, and for the furtherance or discussion of any matter of public concern, whether the admission thereto be general or restricted.]

## Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 4 repealed (E.W.) (12.1.2010) by [Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 182(2)(e)(v), [Sch. 23 Pt. 2](#) (with s. 180)

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Law of Libel Amendment Act 1888, Section 4. (See end of Document for details)*

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- F2** S. 4 repealed, except in relation to criminal libel, (E.W.) by [Defamation Act 1952 \(c. 66\)](#), **ss. 17(2), 18(3)** and (N.I.) by [Defamation Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1955 \(c. 11 \(N.I.\)\)](#), **ss. 15(2), 16(2)**
- F3** Words in s. 4 repealed (E.W.) (8.7.2008) by [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 79(3), 153(2)(d), Sch. 28 Pt. 5**

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Law of Libel Amendment Act 1888, Section 4.