

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order brings into force those provisions of the Defamation Act 1996 in relation to Scotland which are not already in force. It provides for the coming into force of the following provisions on 31st March 2001 –

- (a) sections 2 to 4 (except section 3(8));
- (b) so far as not already in force, sections 16 and 17 and Schedule 2.

The Order also includes a transitional provision in relation to section 4 of the Defamation Act 1952. Section 4 provides for offers of amends in cases of unintentional defamation and article 4 of the Order provides that section 4 continues to apply to offers of amends made before 31st March 2001.