



Defamation Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 31

Statutory privilege

15 Reports, &c. protected by qualified privilege

- (1) The publication of any report or other statement mentioned in Schedule 1 to this Act is privileged unless the publication is shown to be made with malice, subject as follows.
- (2) In defamation proceedings in respect of the publication of a report or other statement mentioned in Part II of that Schedule, there is no defence under this section if the plaintiff shows that the defendant—
 - (a) was requested by him to publish in a suitable manner a reasonable letter or statement by way of explanation or contradiction, and
 - (b) refused or neglected to do so.

For this purpose “in a suitable manner” means in the same manner as the publication complained of or in a manner that is adequate and reasonable in the circumstances.

- (3) This section does not apply to the publication to the public, or a section of the public, of matter which is not of public concern and the publication of which is not for the public benefit.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed—
 - (a) as protecting the publication of matter the publication of which is prohibited by law, or
 - (b) as limiting or abridging any privilege subsisting apart from this section.