



# Defamation Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 31

### *Supplementary provisions*

#### **17 Interpretation.**

(1) In this Act—

“publication” and “publish”, in relation to a statement, have the meaning they have for the purposes of the law of defamation generally, but “publisher” is specially defined for the purposes of section 1;

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

“statutory provision” means—

- (a) a provision contained in an Act or in subordinate legislation within the meaning of the <sup>M1</sup>Interpretation Act 1978, or
- (b) a statutory provision within the meaning given by section 1(f) of the <sup>M2</sup>Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.

(2) In this Act as it applies to proceedings in Scotland—

“costs” means expenses; and

“plaintiff” and “defendant” mean pursuer and defender.

#### **Extent Information**

**E1** [S. 17](#) extends to the United Kingdom; [s. 17\(2\)](#) extends to Scotland see [s. 18\(1\)\(2\)\(3\)](#).

#### **Commencement Information**

**II** [S. 17](#) partly in force; [s. 17](#) partly in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 19\(2\)\(3\)](#); [s. 17](#) in force for certain purposes at 1.4.1999 by [S.I. 1999/817](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#)

#### **Marginal Citations**

**M1** 1978 c. 30.

**M2** 1954 c. 33 (N.I.).

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 04/09/1996. This version of this provision has been superseded.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Defamation Act 1996, Section 17.