



Northern Ireland Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 47

PART IV

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Miscellaneous

50 Privilege

- (1) For the purposes of the law of defamation, absolute privilege shall attach to—
 - (a) the making of a statement in proceedings of the Assembly; and
 - (b) the publication of a statement under the Assembly's authority.
- (2) A person is not guilty of contempt of court under the strict liability rule as the publisher of any matter—
 - (a) in the course of proceedings of the Assembly which relate to a Bill or subordinate legislation; or
 - (b) to the extent that it consists of a fair and accurate report of such proceedings which is made in good faith.
- (3) In this section—
 - “statement” has the same meaning as in the Defamation Act 1996;
 - “the strict liability rule” has the same meaning as in the Contempt of Court Act 1981.