

Amendment 1

Clause 2, Page 1, Line 19

Leave out 'Defamation (Northern Ireland) Act' and insert 'Defamation Act (Northern Ireland)'

Amendment 2

Clause 3, Page 2, Line 12

After 'before' insert 'or at the same time as'

Amendment 3

Clause 3, Page 2, Line 13, at end insert-

'(c) any fact that the defendant reasonably believed to exist at the time the statement complained of was published.'

Amendment 4

Clause 3, Page 2, Line 31

Leave out 'Defamation (Northern Ireland) Act' and insert 'Defamation Act (Northern Ireland)'

Amendment 5

Clause 5, Page 4, Line 4

Leave out subsections (8), (9) and (10)

Amendment 6

Clause 8, Page 7, Line 22

Leave out 'Act' and insert 'Order'

Amendment 7

Leave out Clause 9 and insert-

Jurisdiction

'Action against a person not domiciled in the UK

9.—(1) This section applies to an action for defamation against a person who is not domiciled in the United Kingdom.

(2) A court does not have jurisdiction to hear and determine an action to which this section applies unless the court is satisfied that, of all the places in which the statement complained of has been published, Northern Ireland is clearly the most appropriate place in which to bring an action in respect of the statement.

(3) The references in subsection (2) to the statement complained of include references to any statement which conveys the same, or substantially the same, imputation as the statement complained of.

(4) Sections 41 and 42 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 apply for the purpose of determining whether an individual, corporation or association is regarded as “domiciled in the United Kingdom” for the purposes of this section.’

Amendment 8

After Clause 10 insert-

New Clause 10A

‘Alternative Dispute Resolution

10A.—A judge may order plaintiffs and defendants to engage in Alternative Dispute Resolution before commencement of a trial.’

Amendment 9

After Clause 13 insert-

New Clause 13A

‘Financial limits of county courts

Increase of financial limits of civil jurisdiction of county courts

13A.— The Department of Justice must carry out a review of the financial limits of civil jurisdiction of county courts in respect of libel and slander before the end of the period of 2 years beginning with the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent.’

Amendment 10

After Clause 14 insert-

New Clause 14A

‘Review of Defamation Law

Review of Defamation Law

14A.—(1) The Department must keep under review all relevant developments pertaining to law on defamation as it considers appropriate.

(2) The Department must prepare a report and recommendations on—

- (a) The findings of the review under subsection (1), and
- (b) The operation of this Act.

(3) The Department must lay and publish the report and recommendations under subsection (2) before the end of the period of 2 years beginning with the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent.’

Amendment 11

Clause 15, Page 9, Line 21

Leave out ‘Meaning of “publish” and “statement”’ and insert ‘Interpretation’

Amendment 12

Clause 15, Page 9, Line 26, at end insert-

“the Department” means The Department of Finance.

“Regulations” means regulations made by the Department.’

Amendment 13

Clause 16, Page 9, Line 34

Leave out ‘Defamation (Northern Ireland) Act’ and insert ‘Defamation Act (Northern Ireland)’

Amendment 14

Clause 17, Page 10, Line 9

Leave out subsection (1) and insert-

‘(1) Subject to subsection (2), regulations under this Act may not be made unless a draft of them has been laid before and approved by a resolution of the Assembly.’

Amendment 15

Clause 17, Page 10, Line 16

Leave out subsection (4)

Amendment 16

Clause 18, Page 10, Line 19, at end insert-

‘(1A) Section 17 and section 19 come into operation immediately.’