

For Immediate Release

The Current State of Defamation Law

London, Tuesday 2 February 2010

Last week we reported Collyer Bristow's support for the group Lawyer's for Media Standards ("LMS"). LMS was established to respond to what we saw as a one-sided media campaign for libel reform. Steven Heffer who leads Collyer Bristow's Reputation Management team is a founding committee member of LMS.

In addition to the report published last week by leading media law academics, Professor Alistair Mullis of the University of East Anglia and Dr Andrew Scott of the London School of Economics, we commend to you the attached speech to the EU Parliament by specialist media barrister William Bennett of 5 Raymond Buildings. Dominic Crossley of Collyer Bristow commented "William represents both Claimants and Defendants in defamation actions and his speech makes great sense, in contrast to much of the nonsense that has been perpetuated by a self-serving newspaper campaign. The work of LMS and intelligent, informed accounts of our libel law (such as William's speech) are vital if we are to avoid disastrous knee-jerk reforms such as those proposed by media groups".

Please click on the following link to access a copy of the speech.

<http://portal.nasstar.com/75/files/English%20Defamation%20Law.pdf>

For further information upon libel law or LMS please contact:

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