

Libel Claims by Doctors

Defamation Claims Made by Doctors

The logo for Doctors Defence Service is a green-bordered square containing the text "Doctors Defence Service" in a green, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines.

Doctors
Defence
Service

Doctors on occasions may seek to make a claim for damages by way of a **defamation claim**, for **libel** (written word) or **slander** (spoken word), where an employer, organisation, newspaper or other individual person has made damaging comments about them. A claim should be brought within twelve months of any comments complained about.

Alternatively, a doctor might on occasions be sued for damages for comments that they have made about another doctor, company or person. A robust defence may be necessary and the comments (written or spoken) made by a doctor may have been entirely fair comment.

Not all defamation claims are actionable. Allegations made to the GMC have been held not to be actionable in at least one case (see our [Defamation Law Article](#) on the case) and the public policy reasons cited in the case may mean that other similar matters are not actionable. In some instances, a doctor may be able to bring a claim because a former employer has given a malicious reference. For further discussion on this issue view our [Malicious Testimonials](#) page. A claimant doctor must prove on the balance of probabilities that their claim is true. Quality evidence will need to be obtained for any claim to succeed.

Call Doctors Defence Service to discuss any potential defamation, libel or slander claim or defence on: **0800 10 88 739**