

DRAFT

OF

GENERAL SCHEME OF THE REPEAL OF OFFENCE OF PUBLICATION OR
UTTERANCE OF BLASPHEMOUS MATTER BILL 2018

IMPORTANT: the General Scheme sets out the measures which would, in the event that the 37th Amendment of the Constitution (Repeal of offence of publication or utterance of blasphemous matter) Bill 2018 is passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas and approved in a referendum, be drafted as a formal Bill and introduced by the Government following the referendum. It should be noted that the General Scheme will, if introduced in these circumstances, be subject to change consequent on formal drafting.

GENERAL SCHEME OF THE REPEAL OF OFFENCE OF PUBLICATION OR
UTTERANCE OF BLASPHEMOUS MATTER BILL 2018

ARRANGEMENT OF HEADS

1. Short title
2. Amendment of the Censorship of Films Act 1923
3. Amendment of the Censorship of Films (Amendment) Act 1925
4. Repeals

ACTS REFERRED TO

Censorship of Films Act 1923 (No. 23)

Censorship of Films (Amendment) Act 1925 (No. 21)

Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008 (No. 14)

Defamation Act 2009 (No. 31)

Head 1

Provide that:

Short title

This Act may be cited as the Repeal of Offence of Publication or Utterance of Blasphemous Matter Act 2018.

Head 2

Provide that:

Amendment of the Censorship of Films Act 1923

Section 7(2)(a)(ii) of the Censorship of Films Act 1923, as amended by section 70 of the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008, is amended by the substitution of “indecent or obscene” for “indecent, obscene, or blasphemous”.

Head 3

Provide that:

Amendment of the Censorship of Films (Amendment) Act 1925

Section 3(2) of the Censorship of Films (Amendment) Act 1925 is amended by the substitution of “indecent or obscene” for “indecent, obscene, or blasphemous”.

Head 4

Provide that:

Repeals

Sections 36 and 37 of the Defamation Act 2009 are hereby repealed.