

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
BUSINESS LIST

IN THE MIRROR NEWSPAPERS HACKING LITIGATION

MANAGING JUDGE: THE HONORABLE MR JUSTICE MANN

BETWEEN:

ROXANNE PALLETT

Claimant

- and -

MGN LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

1. My Lord, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Roxanne Pallett. Ms Pallett is a professional actress best known for her role as Jo Stiles in ITV's *Emmerdale*, which she appeared in from 2005 to 2008. The Claimant also appeared in *Soapstar Superstar* in 2006 and *Dancing on Ice* in 2009, both of which were popular television shows broadcast on ITV.
2. My [learned] friend, [], appears on behalf of the Defendant, MGN Limited, the publisher of the *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*. At all relevant times, MGN's newspapers had substantial circulation and readership, both in hard copies and online.

3. In December 2018, Ms Pallett issued proceedings against MGN claiming that her voicemail messages were intercepted by MGN's journalists or those acting on their behalf and that, as a result, these journalists would have been privy to private and confidential voicemail messages left on her mobile telephone, or left by her for others, including her family and friends.
4. In her Particulars of Claim served on 31 January 2019, Ms Pallett identified a number of articles published by MGN's newspapers between 2006 and 2009 which she alleged contained private, confidential and commercially sensitive information about Ms Pallett and her associates that would have been left on voicemails for and by her at the time. The articles contained, by way of example, private information about her personal relationships, her professional commitments and her whereabouts.
5. On 27 March 2019, MGN served its Defence in which it admitted liability to Ms Pallett for the misuse of her private information on three dates in January 2006 and two dates in March 2006 by hiring private investigators to unlawfully obtain private information about the Claimant.
6. Ms Pallett was extremely shocked to learn that MGN had engaged private investigators to obtain information about her and her associates. The Managing Judge stated that the disclosure Ms Pallett obtained through the proceedings "*demonstrated the potential for making a case that the level of infringement of privacy was rather greater than the 5 or so instances conceded by*" MGN. Ms Pallett is appalled and very upset that her private information was obtained by such unlawful means and she is still impacted by the intrusion to this day. This had a significant detrimental effect on her career and caused many of Ms Pallett's personal and professional relationships to break down. Ms Pallett is however pleased that she now understands how certain information came to be published in MGN's titles.

7. Ms Pallett is pleased to confirm today that in October 2020 the parties agreed terms to settle her claim. MGN has paid Ms Pallett substantial damages and her legal costs of bringing her claim following a judgment handed down in January 2021. MGN also provided undertakings to Ms Pallett and agreed to join in this statement to apologise to Ms Pallett for the considerable distress caused by the misuse of her private information.

Counsel/Solicitor for the Defendant

8. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, MGN, I confirm everything my Friend has said. MGN is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to Ms Pallett for the damage and distress caused to her by the misuse of her private information.

9. MGN accepts and acknowledges that Ms Pallett's private information should not have been obtained and used in the manner that it was.

Solicitor for the Claimant

10. My Lord, in light of the order that has been made, and this public statement, Ms Pallett is content to let the matter rest.

Hammins LLP

RPC

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Hammins LLP
Solicitors for the Claimant

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RPC
Solicitors for the Defendant

Claim No: BL-2018-002733

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

BETWEEN:

ROXANNE PALLETT

Claimant

- and -

MGN LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

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