

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS
OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Claim Number: BL-2020-000841

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE
VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE FANCOURT

B E T W E E N:

PAUL SCULFOR

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Callum Galbraith, Hamlins LLP, Solicitor for the Claimant

1. My Lord, in this action for misuse of private information, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Mr Paul Sculfor. My learned friend, Ben Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is a renowned fashion model as well as a TV and film actor. The Claimant has worked with fashion designers, houses and brands around the world, including Giorgio Armani, Versace, Valentino, Burberry and Christian Dior. The Claimant is now an advocate for those recovering from addiction issues and works closely with mental health initiatives. He has now been sober for 16 years and he is the founder of the Stride Foundation, a charity which helps others affected by addiction.
3. As a result of the Claimant's career and relationships with high profile individuals, including the Hollywood actors Jennifer Aniston and Cameron Diaz, he was of considerable interest to the press.

4. The Defendant was the publisher of the *News of the World* which, until its closure in July 2011, was the UK's biggest selling Sunday newspaper with a very considerable readership in this jurisdiction. The Defendant was, and remains, the publisher of *The Sun* which, to this day, enjoys a substantial circulation and readership in this jurisdiction by way of hard copy sales of the newspaper and via its website.
5. In May 2020 the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant. The Claimant claimed that his voicemail messages were intercepted by the Defendant's journalists and that, as a result, those journalists were privy to private and confidential voicemail messages left on his mobile telephone by others, such as his family and friends. The Claimant also claimed that the Defendant had obtained his personal information by deception.
6. The Claimant identified a number of articles which he claimed contained his private information which were published by the Defendant's newspapers between 1999 and 2009. During this time, the Claimant used his voicemail extensively and would regularly receive and leave voicemail messages.
7. Articles published by the *News of the World* reported matters relating to, for example, the Claimant's treatment for drug addiction (a private matter which he claimed was not then known to his close family) and the Claimant's separation from Ms Aniston, his whereabouts and devastation. Mr Sculfor believes that the publication of the articles had a harmful effect on his relationships and on his career.
8. The Claimant is pleased to confirm he has accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve his claim on terms confidential between the parties and which involve the payment of substantial damages as well as his reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. The Defendant has also provided the necessary undertakings to the Court and the Claimant and has agreed to join in this statement to apologise publicly to the Claimant for the distress caused to him by the invasion of his privacy by individuals working for or on behalf of the *News of the World*. The Defendant makes no admission of liability in relation to the Claimant's allegations of voicemail interception and/or other unlawful information gathering at *The Sun*.

Ben Silverstone, Counsel for the Defendant

9. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my learned Friend has said.
10. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the distress caused to him by the invasion of his privacy by individuals working for or on behalf of the *News of the World*. The Defendant acknowledges that such activity should never have taken place, and that it had no right to intrude into the private life of the Claimant in this way.

Callum Galbraith, Hamlins LLP, Solicitor for the Claimant

11. My Lord, in light of the order that has been made, and this public statement, the Claimant considers this matter is now concluded.

Hamblins LLP

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Hamblins LLP
Solicitors for the Claimant

Clifford Chance

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Clifford Chance LLP
Solicitors for the Defendant