

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

Claim Number: BL-2021-000948

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE
VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE FANCOURT

B E T W E E N:

RAFFERTY LAW

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 Rafferty Law. My learned friend, Ben Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is an actor, model, and musician. He is also the eldest child of actress and actor, Sadie Frost and Jude Law and, as a result of this, the Claimant was of interest to the press.
3. 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.

4. In June 2021 the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant. The Claimant pleaded that his voicemail messages were intercepted by the Defendant's journalists and, he claimed that, as a result, those journalists were privy to private and confidential voicemail messages left on his mobile telephone by others. He also pleaded that his private information had been obtained through unlawful information gathering.
5. The Claimant identified a number of articles which he claimed contained his private information which were published by the Defendant's newspapers between 2003 and 2011 and which he believed were derived from unlawful information gathering. The Claimant further claimed that the publication of the articles caused him distress.
6. 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

7. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my Friend has said.
8. 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

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

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Hamlins LLP

Hamlins LLP
Solicitors for the Claimant

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Clifford Chance LLP

Clifford Chance LLP
Solicitors for the Defendant