

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION  
LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE FANCOURT  
B E T W E E N:

TWIG CLARK

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

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STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

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**Daniel Shaw, 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 Twig Clark. My learned friend, Mr Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. Mr Clark is a private individual and has a limited public profile. Between 2000 and 2009 he was in a relationship with Catherine Ford, a comedian and actress more commonly known as Catherine Tate, who is widely known for co-writing and starring in The Catherine Tate Show, as well as her role in Doctor Who between 2006 and 2010. In his claim, Mr Clark asserted that, as a result of his relationship with Ms Tate, he was privy to private information about his associates and that as a result, he was subject to unwanted intrusion by 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 September 2022, Mr Clark issued proceedings against the Defendant where he pleaded that his voicemail messages were intercepted by the Defendant's journalists and he claimed that consequently, the Defendant's journalists were privy to private and confidential voicemail messages left on his mobile telephone by his family and close friends. Mr Clark also pleaded that the Defendant had unlawfully obtained his personal information by deception.
5. Mr Clark identified a significant number of articles published by the Defendant's newspapers, which he asserted contained his private information. Mr Clark pleaded that, during this time, he used his voicemail extensively for personal and professional purposes, and he would regularly exchange voicemail messages with his associates, including his family and close friends.
6. Mr Clark pleaded that, as a result of the Defendant's articles and the press intrusion into his life, he became paranoid and suspicious as to who might be the source of the private information published in the Defendant's newspapers. Mr Clark alleged that the publication of the articles caused him distress.
7. Mr Clark is pleased to confirm that the Defendant has accepted his offer to resolve his claim on terms confidential between the parties, but which involve the payment of substantial damages to him by the Defendant, as well as his reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. The Defendant has also provided appropriate undertakings to the Court and Mr Clark and has agreed to join in this statement to apologise in open court to Mr Clark 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**

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

9. 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.

**Daniel Shaw, Hamlins LLP, Solicitor for the Claimant**

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

Hamblins LLP

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**Hamblins LLP**  
**Solicitors for the Claimant**

Clifford Chance LLP

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**Clifford Chance LLP**  
**Solicitors for the Defendant**