

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

CLAIM NUMBER: BL-2022-000363

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE
VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE FANCOURT

B E T W E E N:

JASON GRIFFITHS (KING)

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Ellen Gallagher, Hamlins LLP, Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

1. My Lord, in this action for misuse of private information, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Jason Griffiths, professionally known as Jason King or “JK”. My learned friend Mr Silverstone appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. Mr Griffiths is a radio DJ and television presenter who since 1999 has enjoyed a long career including hosting prime-time radio programmes on stations including Radio 1, Heart London and Heart FM, as well as presenting television shows such as *Top of the Pops Reloaded* and *Hider in the House*.
3. In his claim, Mr Griffiths asserted that as a result of his relationships and his work, 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 March 2022, Mr Griffiths issued proceedings against the Defendant. Mr Griffiths asserted 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, including his family and friends.
6. Mr Griffiths identified a number of articles which he asserted contained his private information and which were published by the Defendant's newspapers. Mr Griffiths further claimed that, as a result of these publications, he was suspicious as to who was the source of the private information published by its newspapers. Mr Griffiths alleged that this caused him considerable distress and upset.
7. Mr Griffiths is pleased to confirm that he has accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve his claim on terms confidential between the parties and which involve the payment of damages by the Defendant to him as well as his reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. The Defendant has also provided appropriate undertakings to the Court and Mr Griffiths and has agreed to join in this statement to apologise publicly to Mr Griffiths 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 Mr Griffiths' 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 Mr Griffiths 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 Mr Griffiths in this way.

Ellen Gallagher, Hamlins LLP, Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

10. My Lord, in light of the order that has been made, and this public statement, Mr Griffiths 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