

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

Claim Number: BL-2019-001977

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE
VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MANN

B E T W E E N:

MARY DAVIDSON

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, Mrs Mary Davidson. My learned friend, Ben Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is a former live-in nanny to Lila Grace Moss Hack who is the daughter of the model Kate Moss. The Claimant is also the mother of the actresses and businesswomen, Sadie Frost and Holly Davidson. As a result of the Claimant's high profile relationships she was a person 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 still enjoys a substantial circulation and readership in this jurisdiction both in the hard copies of its publications and on its website.
4. In October 2019, the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant. Mrs Davidson claimed that her voicemail messages were intercepted by the Defendant's journalists and that as a result, these journalists would have been privy to private and confidential voicemail messages left on her mobile telephone by others.

5. The Claimant identified a number of articles that were published by the Defendant's newspapers between 1999 and 2010 which she claimed contained private information about her and those closest to her. During this time, the Claimant claimed that she used her voicemail extensively and she would regularly receive and leave voicemail messages.
6. The Claimant further claimed that as a result of these publications, she became suspicious as to who might be the source of the private information that was being published by the Defendant's newspapers and it was alleged that the articles generated mistrust within her circle of close friends and family.
7. The Claimant is pleased to confirm that she has accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve her claim on terms confidential between the parties, but which involve the Defendant agreeing to pay substantial damages to the Claimant as well as her reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. The Defendant has also provided the necessary undertakings to the Court and the Claimant, and it has agreed to join in this statement to apologise to the Claimant publicly for the distress caused to her by the invasion of her 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 my learned Friend has said.
9. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the distress caused to her by the invasion of her 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

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

Hamlins LLP

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Hamlins LLP
Solicitors for the Claimant

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Clifford Chance LLP
Solicitors for the Defendant