

**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:**

MATHEW HORNE

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

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 Mathew Horne. My Learned Friend, Mr Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. Mr Horne is a notable actor, comedian and presenter. He is widely known for his portrayal of various characters in *The Catherine Tate Show* (2004 – 2007) and for his role as the titular character in the critically acclaimed BBC sitcom *Gavin & Stacey* (2007–2010).
3. In his claim, Mr Horne asserted that, by virtue of his profession and his relationships with other high-profile actors and comedians he was privy to private information relating to him and his various associates. Mr Horne pleaded that he was subjected to press intrusion and harassment as a consequence of this and his own fame.

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 July 2022, Mr Horne issued proceedings against the Defendant. Mr Horne alleged that his voicemail messages were intercepted by the Defendant's journalists and he claimed that consequentially, the Defendant's journalists were privy to private and confidential information left on his mobile telephone by his family, close friends and other close professional associates. Mr Horne also pleaded that the Defendant had unlawfully obtained his personal information by deception.
6. Mr Horne identified a significant number of articles published by the Defendant's newspapers which he asserted contained his private information and he believed was obtained by unlawful means. Mr Horne pleaded that during this time he used his voicemail extensively for both personal and professional purposes and he would regularly exchange voicemail messages with his close friends, family and professional associates.
7. Mr Horne further pleaded that, as a result of the Defendant's articles, he became paranoid and suspicious as to who might be the source of the private information published in the Defendant's newspapers. Mr Horne asserted that the level of intrusion was significant, and this caused him considerable distress. Mr Horne further alleged that the publication of the articles had a detrimental impact on his reputation and his relationships with friends and family.
8. Mr Horne is pleased to confirm that he has accepted the Defendant's 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 Horne. The Defendant has agreed to join in this statement to apologise in open court to Mr Horne 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 Horne's allegations of voicemail interception and/or other unlawful information gathering at *The Sun*.

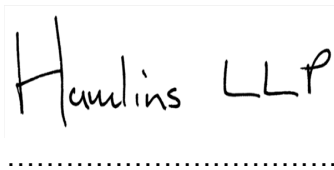
Ben Silverstone, Solicitor/Counsel for the Defendant

9. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything that my 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.

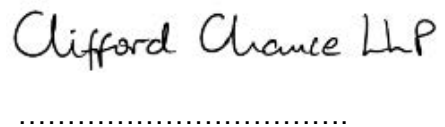
Daniel Shaw, Hamlins LLP, Solicitor for the Claimant

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



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Hamlins LLP
Solicitors for the Claimant



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Clifford Chance LLP
Solicitors for the Defendant