

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE
VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MANN

B E T W E E N:

PATRICK WALDEN

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Alex Cochrane, 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 Patrick Walden. My learned friend, Mr Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is a musician and former member of the band, *Babyshambles*. As a result of the popularity of his music and the Claimant's close friendship to the band's frontman, Pete Doherty, the Claimant 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 November 2018, the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant. Mr Walden claimed that his 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 his mobile telephone by others, such as his family, friends and professional contacts. The Claimant also claimed that the Defendant had obtained his personal information by deception.
5. The Claimant identified a number of articles that were published by the Defendant's newspapers between 2004 and 2006, which he claimed contained private information relating

to him and his associates and which he claimed were suspicious. During this time, Mr Walden used his voicemail extensively and he would regularly receive and leave voicemail messages for his family, fellow band members and close friends.

6. Mr Walden further claimed that as a result of these publications, he did not know who he could trust and he became suspicious as to who might be the source of the private information that was being published by the Defendant's newspapers. The Claimant is a private individual and it was alleged that the publication of the articles had a harmful effect on his relationships and caused him considerable distress.

7. The Claimant 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 Defendant agreeing to pay substantial damages to the Claimant 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 it has agreed to join in this statement to apologise to the Claimant publicly 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 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 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.

Alex Cochrane, Hamlins LLP, Solicitor for the Claimant

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

Hamblins LLP

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Hamblins LLP
Solicitors for the Claimant

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Clifford Chance LLP
Solicitors for the Defendant