

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

Claim Number: BL-2019-001266

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE
VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MANN

B E T W E E N:

REBECCA LOOS

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

1. My Lord, in this action for misuse of private information, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Rebecca Loos. My learned friend, [], appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is a former personal assistant to David and Victoria Beckham who became a model and television personality, best known for her appearances in television shows such as Channel 5's 'The Farm' in 2004 and ITV's 'Celebrity Love Island' in 2005. The Claimant asserted that she had an extra-marital relationship with the footballer, David Beckham. As a result, 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 July 2019, the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant. Ms Loos 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, such as her family and friends. The Claimant also claimed that the Defendant had obtained her personal information by deception.
5. The Claimant identified 19 articles which were published in the Defendant's newspapers between 2003 and 2005, which she claimed contained private information relating to her and which were suspicious. During this time, the Claimant used her voicemail extensively and she would regularly receive and leave voicemail messages for her family, close friends and others.
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. She claimed that the publication of the articles caused her considerable distress.
7. The Claimant can today confirm 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 settlement of this claim is on the basis that 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*.

[Solicitor/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.

Solicitor for the Claimant

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

Hammins LLP

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Hammins LLP
Solicitors for the Claimant

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Clifford Chance LLP
Solicitors for the Defendant