

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

Claim Number: BL-2020-000783

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE
VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MANN

B E T W E E N:

RHODRI GIGGS

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 Rhodri Giggs. My learned friend, Mr Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is the younger brother of Ryan Giggs, the very well-known former Manchester United footballer. As a result of his close relationship with his brother, as well as several of his team mates at Manchester United, 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 May 2020, the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant. Mr Giggs 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 and friends. 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 1998 and 2007, which contained his private information and which he claimed were suspicious. During this time, Mr Giggs used his voicemail extensively and he would regularly receive and leave voicemail messages for his family and close friends.
6. Mr Giggs further claimed that as a result of these publications, he 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 publication of the articles caused him considerable distress and had a harmful effect on his relationships.
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 Giggs 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