

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

Claim Number: HC-2018-002654

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE
VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MANN

B E T W E E N:

ROXANNE PALLETT

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, Ms Roxanne Pallett. My learned friend, Mr Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is an actress best known for her role as Jo Sugden, from 2005 to 2008, in the ITV soap opera *Emmerdale*. After leaving *Emmerdale*, she has appeared in the popular television dramas *Casualty* and *Waterloo Road*, as well as a number of films and reality television shows. As a result of her television appearances, 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 December 2018, the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant. Ms Pallett 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. The Claimant also claimed that the Defendant had obtained her personal information by deception.

5. The Claimant identified a number of articles that were published by the Defendant's newspapers between 2006 and 2009 which she claimed contained her private information and which she claimed were suspicious. During this time, the Claimant used her voicemail service 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 this impacted her personal relationships and caused her considerable distress.
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 involved the Defendant agreeing to pay substantial damages to the Claimant, as well as her reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. The Defendant has 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 this matter is now concluded.

Hamblins LLP

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Solicitor for the Claimant

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Solicitor for the Defendant