

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

Claim Number: BL-2019-000906

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE
VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MANN

B E T W E E N:

SARAH VINCENT

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Ellen Gallagher, Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

1. My Lord, in this action for misuse of private information, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Ms Sarah Vincent. My learned friend, Ben Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited ("NGN").
2. Ms Vincent is a private individual, who was married to Jim Moir, professionally known as the comedian Vic Reeves. As a result of her marriage to Mr Moir and knowledge of private information relating to him and their family, Ms Vincent was a person of interest to the press.
3. NGN 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. NGN 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.

4. In May 2019 Ms Vincent issued proceedings against NGN. Ms Vincent claimed that her voicemail messages were intercepted by NGN's journalists and that, as a result, those journalists were privy to private and confidential voicemail messages left on her mobile telephone by others, such as her family and friends. Ms Vincent also claimed that NGN had unlawfully obtained her personal information by deception.
5. Ms Vincent identified a number of articles which she claimed contained her private and confidential information which were published by NGN's newspapers between 1996 and 2005. During this time, Ms Vincent used her voicemail extensively and would regularly receive and leave voicemail messages.
6. Ms Vincent further claimed that as a result of NGN's publications, she became suspicious as to who was the source of the private information published by NGN's newspapers. The publication of the articles caused her considerable distress and upset.
7. Ms Vincent is pleased to confirm she has accepted NGN's offer to resolve her claim on terms confidential between the parties and which involve the payment of substantial damages by the Defendant to her as well as her reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. NGN has also provided appropriate undertakings to the Court and the Claimant and has agreed to join in this statement to apologise publicly 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*. NGN 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 for the Defendant

8. My Lord, on behalf of NGN, I confirm everything my Friend has said.
9. NGN is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to Ms Vincent 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*. NGN acknowledges that such activity should never have taken place, and that it had no right to intrude into the private life of Ms Vincent in this way.

Ellen Gallagher, Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

10. My Lord, in light of the order that has been made, and this public statement, Ms Vincent is content to consider this matter concluded.

Hamblins LLP

Clifford Chance LLP

.....
Hamblins LLP
Solicitors for the Claimant

.....
Clifford Chance LLP
Solicitors for the Defendant