

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

IN THE MIRROR NEWSPAPERS HACKING LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE FANCOURT

B E T W E E N:

PAUL SCULFOR

Claimant

and

MGN LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Ellen Gallagher, Hamlins LLP, Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

1. My Lord, in this action for misuse of private information, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Mr Paul Sculfor. Mr Sculfor is an award-winning British model and co-founder of the Stride Foundation, a charity helping people walk away from addiction. Mr Sculfor is also the host of the "*This is Powerful*" podcast about mindset, mental health, addiction and recovery.
2. My friend Alex Pollock appears on behalf of the Defendant, MGN Limited. The Defendant is the publisher of the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and The People. At all relevant times, the Defendant's newspapers had substantial circulation and readership, by way of hard copy sales of its publications and via its website.

3. Mr Sculfor issued proceedings against the Defendant in June 2021 alleging, amongst other things, his voicemail messages were intercepted by the Defendant's journalists, in particular messages relating to his relationships with the actors Jennifer Aniston and Cameron Diaz.
4. Mr Sculfor identified nine articles published in the Defendant's newspapers between 2007 and 2009 containing private information. Mr Sculfor asserted the private information contained in the Defendant's articles could only have been obtained through unlawful information gathering.
5. On 17 January 2022 the Defendant served its Defence. The Defendant asserted Mr Sculfor had brought his claim too late and was statute-barred.
6. Mr Sculfor's claim was not selected for the trial in 2023 in which the cases of the Duke of Sussex, Michael Turner, Fiona Wightman and Nikki Sanderson were determined. Following the 2023 trial, the Defendant successfully applied for a trial of a preliminary issue of limitation, for which Mr Sculfor's claim was selected as one of five test cases, the trial for which took place in January and February 2026.
7. In the judgment *Paul Sculfor and others v MGN Limited* [2026] EWHC 597 (Ch) handed down on 16 March 2026, the court held that Mr Sculfor's claim was brought within the period allowed by the law under the Limitation Act 1980. The court made its decision on the basis the Defendant concealed its wrongdoing and Mr Sculfor did not know, and could not with reasonable diligence have discovered, he was the victim of the Defendant's unlawful activities at an earlier stage since he was materially misled by the Defendant into believing his friends and family were to blame for his private information being published in the Defendant's newspaper articles. The court noted in its judgment that Mr Sculfor relied on a variety of evidence to support his claim, including call data and private investigator invoices identifying him as the target. Mr Sculfor also relied on private investigator invoices targeting his family members, friends and colleagues.

8. Mr Sculfor was and remains shocked at the extent to which the Defendant targeted him over fifteen years ago, which has caused Mr Sculfor years of emotional pain and distress as well as damaging relationships with those close to him.
9. Mr Sculfor is now 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 payment of substantial damages by the Defendant to him and the Defendant undertaking not to access or attempt to access his voicemails or otherwise illegally obtain his private information. The Defendant has also agreed to pay Mr Sculfor's legal costs of bringing the claim to 29 May 2026. The Defendant has further agreed to join in this statement to apologise publicly to Mr Sculfor for the distress caused to him by the invasion of his privacy by the Defendant.

Alex Pollock, RPC, Solicitor for the Defendant

10. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my friend has said.
11. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to Mr Sculfor for the distress caused to him by the misuse of his private information over fifteen years ago. The Defendant acknowledges that Mr Sculfor's private information should not have been obtained and used in the manner it was. The Defendant has also agreed to write a private letter of apology to Mr Sculfor for the misuse of his private information.

Ellen Gallagher, Hamlins LLP, Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

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