

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Claim Number: BL-2021-000976

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

IN THE MATTER OF THE MOBILE TELEPHONE VOICEMAIL INTERCEPTION LITIGATION

BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE FANCOURT

B E T W E E N:

SHANE LYNCH

Claimant

- and -

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS 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 Shane Lynch. My learned friend, Ben Silverstone, appears on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. Mr Lynch is a renowned singer-songwriter, professional racing driver and was a member of the globally successful band *Boyzone*. Following his departure from *Boyzone* Mr Lynch formed a duo with fellow *Boyzone* member Keith Duffy, worked as a solo artist, and took part in the reality television shows *The Games* (in 2004), *Love Island* (in 2005) and *Cirque De Celebrité* (in 2007). Mr Lynch is also a competitive racing driver.
3. In his claim, Mr Lynch asserted that he has been in frequent and close contact with many high-profile individuals, including his fellow *Boyzone* band members. Mr Lynch alleged that, as a result of his work and his relationships, he was privy to private information relating to him and his associates and was therefore of considerable interest to the press.
4. 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 by way of hard copy sales of the newspaper and via its website.

5. In June 2021, Mr Lynch issued proceedings against the Defendant for its misuse of his private information. Mr Lynch asserted that his voicemail messages were intercepted by the Defendant's journalists and that, as a result, those journalists were privy to private and confidential voicemail messages left on his mobile telephone by others.
6. Mr Lynch identified a number of articles published by the Defendant's newspapers which he asserted contained his private information. During this time, Mr Lynch asserted he used his voicemail extensively and would regularly exchange voicemail messages with those close to him.
7. Mr Lynch further claimed that as a result of the Defendant's publications he became suspicious as to the source of the private information published in the Defendant's newspapers. Mr Lynch further asserted that the publication of the articles by the Defendant had a detrimental impact on his relationships and caused him considerable distress.
8. Mr Lynch is pleased to confirm that he has accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve his claim on terms confidential between the parties, but which involves the Defendant agreeing to pay substantial damages to Mr Lynch as well as his reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. The Defendant has also provided the necessary undertakings to the Court and Mr Lynch, and it has agreed to join in this statement to apologise to Mr Lynch 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 Mr Lynch's allegations of voicemail interception and/or other unlawful information gathering at *The Sun*.

Ben Silverstone, Counsel for the Defendant

9. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my Friend has said.
10. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to Mr Lynch 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 Mr Lynch in this way.

Ellen Gallagher, Hamblins LLP, Solicitor Advocate for the Claimant

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

Hammins LLP

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Hammins LLP

Solicitors for the Claimant

Clifford Chance LLP

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Clifford Chance LLP

Solicitors for the Defendant