

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

B E T W E E N:

MICHELLE COLLINS

Claimant

- and -

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor Advocate for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant, Michelle Collins. My learned friend, Mr Silverstone appears for the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant has been a professional television and stage actress since the early nineties and has appeared in numerous well known programmes including *EastEnders*, *Coronation Street*, *Sunburn*, *Daylight Robbery*, *Dr Who* and *Two Thousand Acres of Sky*.
3. The Defendant was the publisher of the *News of the World* newspaper which, until its closure in July 2011, was the UK's biggest selling Sunday newspaper. It is also the publisher of *The Sun* newspaper.
4. In September 2019, the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant.
5. On 17 February 2020, she served her Particulars of Claim in which she relied upon

47 articles published by the Defendant's newspapers between 1996 until 2010, which she claimed contained intrusive and personal information about her private life and relationships. The Claimant alleged that the obtaining and publication of her private information was consistent with the interception of her voicemail messages. The Defendant provided disclosure to the Claimant during the course of her claim, which the Claimant believed indicated she had been targeted by individuals working for or acting on behalf of the Defendant during the period of her claim.

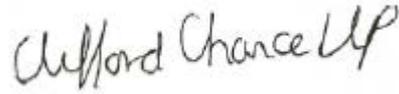
6. The Claimant further alleged that the publication of articles in the Defendant's newspapers had a damaging effect on her career and her private life, and that it caused lasting damage to her relationships with friends and family, some of which she believes can never be repaired.
7. In December 2020, the Claimant accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve her claim on terms confidential between the parties, but which involve the Defendant agreeing to pay substantial damages to the Claimant as well as to pay the Claimant's reasonable legal costs. The Defendant has also provided appropriate undertakings to the Court and the Claimant and has agreed to join in this statement to apologise 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*.
8. The parties have agreed and noted that 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*.

Counsel for the Defendant

9. My Lord on behalf of the Defendant I confirm everything that my learned friend has said.
10. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to Ms Collins 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 accepts that such activity should never have taken place and, that it had no right to intrude into Ms Collins' private life in this way.

Solicitor Advocate for the Claimant

11. In light of the order which has been made and this statement, the Claimant considers that the matter is now concluded.



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Mark Thomson, Solicitor Advocate

Thomson Heath & Associates

Solicitors for the Claimant

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Clifford Chance LLP

Solicitors for the Defendant