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

B E T W E E N: -

Claimant

RICHARD FLEESHMAN

- 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, Richard Fleeshman. My learned friend, Mr Silverstone appears for the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.

2. The Claimant is a professional actor and singer-songwriter who is best known for his role in the well-known television soap, Coronation Street. He also starred in musicals both on the West End in London and on Broadway in New York.

3. The Defendant was the publisher of the *News of the World* newspaper, which had a considerable readership in this jurisdiction until its closure in July 2011. The Defendant is currently the publisher of *The Sun* newspaper.

4. In September 2019, the Claimant sent the Defendant a letter of claim, alleging the interception of his voicemail messages. The Claimant claimed that from about 2006, at the age of 16, he experienced strange activity with his telephones and private information about his private life appearing in the Defendant's publications without any apparent explanation. The Claimant also claimed he would become confused when he would go

somewhere, either on his own or with close friends and family, only to find a photographer, waiting there to take photographs.

5. The Claimant alleged that the publications by the News of the World about his private information caused the Claimant to become distrustful and suspicious of his family. The Claimant further alleged that this caused him upset and caused distress to him and his family and his friends.

6. The Claimant also claimed his career was seriously impacted. The Claimant alleged that he reluctantly decided to leave Coronation Street in July 2006 due to the intrusion into his private life. The Claimant further alleged that he turned down a number of other roles as he could not face the intrusion.

7. The Claimant therefore believes that the Defendant's alleged intrusion into his private life, and the disclosure of his private information had a detrimental impact on not only his reputation, but his career and his private relationships.

8. The Claimant received disclosure from the MPS in October 2019, which included a page from Glenn Mulcaire's notebook, which contained the Claimant's address. In December 2019, the Claimant also received Initial Disclosure, which included one PI invoice which referenced his name.

9. On 27 January 2020, the Claimant accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve his claim on terms confidential between the parties, which involve the Defendant agreeing to pay damages to the Claimant as well as his reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. The Defendant has also provided appropriate undertakings to the Court and the Claimant, and it has agreed to join in this statement and apologise to the Claimant 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*.

10. 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

11. My Lord on behalf of the Defendant I confirm everything that my learned friend has said.

12. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to Mr Richard Fleeshman 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 accepts that such activity should never have taken place.

Solicitor Advocate for the Claimant

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

Mark Thomson, Solicitor Advocate
Thomson Heath & Associates
Solicitors for the Claimant

Solicitors for the Defendant