

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
BUSINESS LIST
B E T W E E N: -**

Claimant

QUINTIN LAWSON

- and -

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant, Mr Quintin Lawson. My learned friend, Mr Silverstone appears for the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is an actor (known professionally as Charlie Lawson), who is best known for his long-standing role as character “Jim McDonald” in the popular ITV soap, *Coronation Street*, which he started in 1989.
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, which also publishes its content on its website.
4. The Claimant received disclosure from the MPS in September 2017, which included an extract of Glenn Mulcaire's notebook which contained his contact details. The Claimant wrote to the Defendant in July 2018. The Claimant alleged that he experienced suspicious activity with his mobile telephones, journalists and photographers turning up in unexpected locations, and private information about his private life appearing

in the Defendant's publications. The Claimant alleged these incidents were consistent with the interception of his voicemail messages.

5. The Claimant also alleged that the publications by the Defendant in the News of the World about his private information caused distrust and suspicion amongst his friends, family and colleagues. The Claimant further alleged this distrust resulted in him suspecting those closest to him of leaking private information and caused pressure on his relationships, including his partner at the time, Lesley Bond, who suffered from mental illness and sadly died before he brought this claim.
6. On 3 May 2019, the Defendant provided Initial Disclosure and in August 2019, Mr Lawson accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve his claims on terms confidential between the parties, but which involve the Defendant agreeing to pay substantial 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 to 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*.
7. 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

8. My Lord on behalf of the Defendant I confirm everything that my learned friend has said.
9. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to Mr Lawson 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 for the Claimant

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

Thomson Heath

.....
Emily Jenkins, Solicitor
Thomson Heath & Associates
Solicitors for the Claimant

Clifford Chance LLP

.....
Solicitors for the Defendant