

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

DANE BOWERS

Claimant

- and -

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

DRAFT UNILATERAL STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant, Dane Bowers.
2. The Claimant is a professional singer, songwriter, DJ and record producer. He is best known for being a member of the boyband, *Another Level*, between 1997 and 2000, as well as his solo projects with *True Steppers* and Victoria Beckham. They released the successful single "*Out of your mind*" in 2000. He later collaborated with Ms Beckham on her solo album and subsequent tour. The Claimant is also known for his relationship with the model Katie Price, known professionally as Jordan.
3. The Defendant was the publisher of the News of the World newspaper until its closure in July 2011. The Defendant is currently the publisher of The Sun newspaper.
4. In May 2020, the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant. He alleged that he had experienced suspicious activity with his mobile telephones, that journalists and photographers turned up in unexpected locations, and that private information about his private life appeared in the media. Upon issuing his claim, the Claimant was shown generic disclosure relevant to his claim. The Claimant was shocked to see an invoice from a company called Severnside Company Services to the News of the World which referred to a birth certificate search in respect of his son.
5. On 19 August 2020, the Defendant provided Initial Disclosure, which the Claimant believed indicated he had been targeted by the Defendant. In particular, he was shocked to see a number of calls made by the Defendant's journalists to his mobile phone and a number of invoices from alleged private investigators which he believed indicated they were targeting him. He was particularly shocked to see his

name as the subject on an invoice relating to an alleged private investigator company, ELI, who are claimed in this litigation to have been involved with unlawful information gathering. In total, the Claimant was shown two invoices of ELI, one of which was addressed to a journalist at the News of the World and one of which was addressed to a journalist at The Sun.

6. On 30 October 2020, the Claimant served his Particulars of Claim in which he relied upon 32 articles which were published by the Defendant between 1998 and 2010. The Claimant alleged that these articles contained his intrusive information about his private and family life which was unlawfully obtained by the Defendant. The Claimant alleged this impacted his relationships.
7. In December 2020, the Defendant served its Defence which made no admission of liability, and made a series of denials and non-admissions. It also relied on the defence of limitation.
8. After considerable discussions between the parties, the search terms for standard disclosure were agreed in February 2021 and the parties then exchanged disclosure in April 2021. Similarly, to the initial disclosure, the Claimant believed that the standard disclosure indicated he had been targeted by individuals working for or acting on behalf of the Defendant during the period of his claim. Having seen the Defendant's standard disclosure and based on this, the Claimant also believed that his associates were targeted and this caused untold suspicion and lasting damage to relationships, some of which he believes are irreparable.
9. On 20 July 2021, the Claimant accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve his claim on terms confidential between the parties, but which involved 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.
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.
11. In light of the order which has been made and this statement, the Claimant considers that the matter is now concluded.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomson Heath". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Emily Jenkins
Solicitors for the Claimant