

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

B E T W E E N:

DANI BEHR

Claimant

- and -

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant, Dani Behr. My learned friend, Mr Silverstone, appears for the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is a professional singer, television presenter and actress, best known for her presenting roles on Channel 4's *The Word*, *The Big Breakfast* and BBC's flagship children's programme *The Saturday Show*. It was as a result of the Claimant's work in television, she became a person of interest to the press.
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. In May 2020, the Claimant issued proceedings against the Defendant. The Claimant claimed that the Defendant had obtained her private information by unlawful means and that her voicemail messages were intercepted by the Defendant's journalists.
5. On 30 October 2020, she served her Particulars of Claim in which she relied upon 33 articles which were published by the Defendant's newspapers between 1996 and 2009. She also relied upon early disclosure provided by the Defendant as well as generic disclosure from this managed litigation. The Claimant believed the disclosure indicated she had been targeted by the Defendant, which she found upsetting.
6. The Claimant alleged that the publication of articles in the Defendant's newspapers led to her being suspicious of those around her, which in turn damaged many of her personal relationships.
7. On 20 July 2021, the Claimant accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve her 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 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.
9. 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

10. My Lord on behalf of the Defendant I confirm everything that my learned friend has said.
11. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to Ms Behr 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 Behr's private life in this way.

Solicitor for the Claimant

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

Thomson Heath

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

Clifford Arance LLP

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Solicitors for the Defendant