

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

**B E T W E E N:**

**IMOGEN THOMAS**

**Claimant**

**- and -**

**NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED**

**Defendant**

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**UNILATERAL STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

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**Solicitor for the Claimant**

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant, Imogen Thomas.
2. The Claimant is a model, TV personality, business owner and entrepreneur. She was also named Miss Wales in 2003 and later appeared in Big Brother in 2006. As a result the Claimant was 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.

4. In September 2019, 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. The Claimant claimed that the Defendant's journalists would have been privy to private and confidential voicemail messages.
5. On 14 February 2020, she served her Particulars of Claim in which she relied upon 9 articles in the News of the World and 10 articles The Sun published by the Defendant's newspapers between 2006 and 2011. The Claimant alleged that these articles contained information about the Claimant's private life which was unlawfully obtained by the Defendant.
6. The Defendant served its Defence in April 2020 and the parties exchanged disclosure in July 2020. After considering all the material disclosed, the Claimant was shocked to discover what she believed to be suspicious call data and invoices relating to both her and her associates.
7. The Claimant was also horrified to see her name appear in a News of the World internal email with reference to an alleged private investigator company, TDI, which is claimed in this litigation to have been involved in unlawful information gathering. Had it not been for issuing proceedings the Claimant believes she would never have seen the material which she believes shows the extent to which she was targeted by the Defendant.
8. The Claimant was, and still is, profoundly upset to discover what she believes to be invasions of privacy by individuals working for or acting on behalf of the Defendant. The Claimant believes that the publication of articles in the Defendant's newspapers had a damaging effect on her personal relationships, some of which were irreversibly damaged. The Claimant believes that at times when she needed to be able to trust those closest to her, the Defendant made this extremely difficult. Further, the Claimant finds it particularly troubling that she believes she was targeted during the course of separate litigation and believes she would not have been involved in such proceedings but for the Defendant's activities.
9. In January 2021, 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.

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

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David Sherborne

**Counsel for the Claimant**

