

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION

B E T W E E N:

NADIA SAWALHA

Claimant

- 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, Nadia Sawalha. My learned friend, Mr Silverstone appears for the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. The Claimant is an actress and television presenter. She is best known for her role as 'Annie Palmer' in the popular soap *EastEnders*, as well as her longstanding role as a panellist on the daytime chat show, *Loose Women*. In 2009, she won *Celebrity MasterChef* and since 2014, her and her husband have run a YouTube channel.
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 wrote to the Defendant in November 2019. The Claimant claimed that she experienced suspicious activity with her mobile telephones, journalists and photographers turning up in unexpected locations, including her family home and the publication of numerous articles which contained sensitive and personal information.
5. The Claimant alleged that the publications by the Defendant in the *News of the World* which included her private information caused upset resulted in her becoming distrustful of those close to her. The Claimant believes that the publication of these articles impacted her relationships including with her family and her then husband,

who died in tragic circumstances.

6. The Claimant alleged that the obtaining and publication of her private information was consistent with the interception of her voicemail messages.
7. The Claimant issued proceedings on 28 May 2020 and served an initial disclosure request on 24 June 2020. The Defendant provided initial disclosure on 19 August 2020, which included call data and PI disclosure spanning a number of years. The Claimant believes the disclosure indicated that she had been targeted by individuals working for or acting on behalf of the Defendant during the period of her claim.
8. The Claimant believes that the publication of articles in the Defendant's newspapers had a damaging effect on her relationships with her friends and family, some of which she believes can never be repaired.
9. On 1 October 2020, 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 damages to the Claimant, as well as to pay the Claimant's reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. The Defendant has also provided appropriate undertakings to the Court and the Claimant and 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*.
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

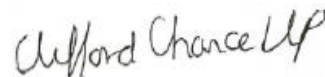
11. My Lord on behalf of the Defendant I confirm everything that my learned friend has said.
12. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its sincere apologies to Nadia Sawalha for the distress caused to her by the invasion of her privacy by individuals working for or on behalf of the *News of the World*. The Defendant accepts that such activity should never have taken place.

Solicitor 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.



Isabella Ritchie, Solicitor
Thomson Heath & Associates
Solicitors for the Claimant



Solicitors for the Defendant