

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
IN THE MIRROR NEWSPAPERS HACKING LITIGATION**

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

**CALUM BEST**

**Claimant**

**and**

**MGN LIMITED**

**Defendant**

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**STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

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**Solicitor for the Claimant (Henry Fox)**

1. I appear for the Claimant, Calum Best, in his claim for misuse of private information against the Defendant, MGN Limited, who I will refer to as MGN.
2. My friend, Mr Wilson, appears for MGN.
3. Calum Best is the son of the late George Best. He is a television personality and a businessman.
4. MGN is the publisher of three national tabloid newspapers, namely the Mirror, the Sunday Mirror, and the People.
5. In January 2016, Mr Best was contacted by the Metropolitan Police Service's Operation Golding and in August 2016 his lawyers wrote to MGN in connection with an intended claim for voicemail interception.
6. Mr Best alleged that he had been unlawfully targeted by MGN's journalists for a number of years, not only because of interest in his father, but also his own private life. Mr Best alleged that a number of articles were published by MGN which were the product of voicemail

interception or other unlawful information gathering.

7. On receiving his letter of claim, MGN agreed to provide Mr Best with early disclosure of certain documents, and these indicated that he had been targeted by MGN over an extended period.
8. Mr Best was concerned and distressed to learn that he had been targeted by MGN in this manner, and that articles about his private life were published as a result.
9. He was particularly upset to discover that he was targeted by MGN during his father's final days in 2005, and also around the time of various memorial events which were held to celebrate his father's life. Mr Best was in his early twenties at this time, and it was a very difficult period in his life. He is appalled that MGN's journalists saw fit to target him at this time and invade his privacy in such a cynical manner.
10. I am here to announce that in November 2016, following negotiations between the parties, MGN agreed to pay Mr Best damages and to pay his reasonable legal costs. MGN has also agreed to join in this Statement in Open Court as part of the agreed settlement.
11. MGN also agreed to give an undertaking to Mr Best that it will not intercept his voicemail messages.

**Solicitor for the Defendant**

12. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, MGN, I confirm everything that my friend Mr Fox has said.
13. MGN is here today, through me, to offer its apologies to Mr Best for the damage and distress that it caused him by intercepting his voicemail messages a number of years ago.

**Solicitor for the Claimant**

14. My Lord, the Claimant is pleased that MGN has acknowledged and apologised for its wrongdoing and in view of this statement in open court, which was agreed as part of his settlement, he considers that this matter is now concluded.

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