

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

**CHANCERY DIVISION**

**BETWEEN:**

**JOSEPHINE WOOD**

**Claimant**

**and**

**MGN LIMITED**

**Defendant**

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**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, Josephine Wood My friend, [ ], appears for the Defendant, MGN Limited.
2. The Claimant is a model, television personality and the CEO of Jo Wood Organics, an organic beauty products company. She is also the former wife of The Rolling Stones guitarist, Ronnie Wood.
3. The Defendant is the publisher of the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and the People newspapers.
4. The Claimant was notified by Operation Golding in August 2015 that she was the victim of phone hacking by MGN Limited. She was informed that Dan Evans had admitted to the police that he had hacked her phone from 2002 onwards and that her name and number, and those of her ex-husband, were in his Palm Pilot. The Claimant subsequently found out from disclosure that there was call data and that MGN had paid private investigators to look into her from as far back as 2000.

5. The Claimant was very distressed to have been targeted in this way, especially during some difficult periods in her marriage. The Claimant believes that the tensions between her and her then husband were increased by the private information appearing in MGN's titles and that the subsequent publicity around their breakup, and the distrust caused by the phone hacking, made a potential reconciliation between her and her husband impossible.
6. The Claimant instructed solicitors to write to MGN Limited on 5 August 2016 and, following negotiations, in October 2016, MGN Limited agreed to pay damages to the Claimant plus her reasonable legal costs. Furthermore, the Defendant has also undertaken not to access the Claimant's voicemail messages.

**Counsel for the Defendant**

7. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my Friend, [        ], has said.
8. The Defendant is here today through me to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the damage, as well as the distress, caused to her by interception of her voicemails and the publication of her private information. The Defendant acknowledges that the information should never have been obtained or used in the manner it was.
9. The Defendant has also undertaken to the Claimant that it will not intercept her voicemails in the future.

**Solicitor for the Claimant**

10. In the light of the agreement between the parties and this statement, the Claimant considers that the Defendant has made adequate amends for its wrongdoing.



**Solicitor for the Claimant**



**Solicitor for the Defendant**

**MARCUS PAVLINGTON**