

“Over a number of years, The News of the World conducted an illegal campaign of hacking and surveillance against me. In 2011, I decided to bring legal proceedings against them to try and find out the truth. Today, in court, it has been announced that those proceedings have been completely successful. I have been unable to make any statement until now about phone hacking because of those proceedings. Now the proceedings are at an end, I can finally speak out about what went on.

For several years leading up to 2006, I was suspicious about how information concerning my private life was coming out in the press. I changed my phones, I had my house swept for bugs but still the information kept being published. I started to become distrustful of people close to me.

I was truly appalled by what I was shown by the Police and by what my lawyers have discovered. It is clear that I, along with many others, was kept under constant surveillance for a number of years. No aspect of my private life was safe from intrusion by News Group newspapers. It was not just that my phone messages were listened to. News Group also paid people to watch me and my house for days at a time and to follow me and those close to me both in this country and abroad.

I have now achieved everything I wanted from this litigation. The News of the World has finally made admissions about the extent of their illegal activity and they have acknowledged that what they did was wrong. They have also finally admitted that what they did to me personally amounted to harassment and that it should never have happened. They have also accepted that the information published in the News of the World articles and the Sun articles that I complained about was private. This will hopefully make them think twice in the future before they intrude into my private life. They have also finally given a proper apology.

For me this case was never about money. It was about standing up for myself and finding out what had happened. I owed it to my friends and family as well as myself to do this.

I believe in a free press but what News Group did was an abuse of its freedoms. They have overstepped the mark for many years. They were prepared to do anything to sell their newspapers, make money, irrespective of the impact it had on other people. It was not just people like me, whose work involved them being in the public eye, but also many other people, often at the most vulnerable times of their lives. It is now up to the Police and the Leveson Inquiry to continue their investigations into tabloid abuses.”