

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION**

**IN THE MIRROR NEWSPAPERS HACKING LITIGATION**

B E T W E E N : -

**LADY VICTORIA HERVEY**

**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, Lady Victoria Hervey, in her 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. Lady Victoria Hervey is the daughter of the late 6th Marquess of Bristol. She is a model, an author and a businesswoman, formerly owning a fashion boutique in London.
4. MGN is the publisher of three national tabloid newspapers, namely the Mirror, the Sunday Mirror, and the People.
5. In October 2015, Lady Victoria was contacted by the Metropolitan Police Service's Operation Golding and in May 2016 her lawyers wrote to MGN in connection with an intended claim for voicemail interception. Lady Victoria alleged that she had been unlawfully targeted by MGN's journalists for a number of years, because of interest in her private life, and that a number of articles were published by MGN which were the product of voicemail interception or other unlawful information gathering.
6. On receiving her letter of claim, MGN agreed to provide Lady Victoria with early disclosure of certain documents, and these indicated that Lady Victoria had been targeted by MGN.

7. Lady Victoria was distressed and appalled to learn that she was targeted in this manner by MGN, and that it has taken until now for this information to come to light. Lady Victoria was targeted by MGN at a time of intense media intrusion into her private life. This affected her relationships with other people and negatively impacted upon her business. This is a source of huge regret to her.
8. I am here to announce that in August 2016, following negotiations between the parties, MGN agreed to pay Lady Victoria damages and to pay her reasonable legal costs. MGN has also agreed to join in this Statement in Open Court as part of the agreed settlement.
9. MGN also agreed to give an undertaking to Lady Victoria that it will not intercept her voicemail messages.

**Solicitor for the Defendant**

10. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, MGN, I confirm everything that my friend Mr Fox has said.
11. MGN is here today, through me, to offer its apologies to Lady Victoria for the damage and distress that it caused her by intercepting her voicemail messages.

**Solicitor for the Claimant**

12. 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 her settlement, she considers that this matter is now concluded.

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