

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION

B E T W E E N:

RHYS IFANS

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor Advocate for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant. My learned friend, Anthony Hudson, appears for the Defendant.
2. The Claimant is a well-known actor and musician, who has starred in films such as Notting Hill, Enduring Love, Elizabeth the Golden Age, Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows, Greenberg and The Amazing Spider-Man.
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, and which also published its content on its website www.newsoftheworld.com.
4. From about 2005 onwards, the Claimant regularly experienced hang-up calls on his mobile telephone as well as unusual clicking sounds on the line. The Claimant also experienced problems with his voicemail service.

5. In April 2013, the Claimant was contacted by police officers from Operation Pinetree. He was informed that his details appeared in documents seized by the Police from News Group Newspapers. The evidence indicated that his mobile telephone messages may have been intercepted by a News of the World journalist.
6. In the light of this, and having consulted with his lawyers, proceedings were issued on his behalf on 7 May 2013 against News Group Newspapers for misuse of his private information.
7. In July 2013, the Court ordered disclosure of evidence, which was derived from call data and police interviews with Dan Evans, a former journalist at the News of the World. This disclosure was provided in stages over the course of the next few months.
8. After considering the extensive evidence which was disclosed as a result of the Court ruling in July 2013, the Claimant's Particulars of Claim were served on 19 March 2014. This set out the detail of his legal complaints against the Defendant.
9. I am here today to announce that, after considering the details of the Claimant's Particulars of Claim, the Defendant accepts that a number of the Claimant's voicemail messages were intercepted and that there has been a misuse of his private information. The Defendant accepts that this activity should never have taken place and it has agreed to apologise to the Claimant and undertake not to repeat such actions. It has also agreed to pay a substantial amount in damages for the distress the Claimant has suffered as well as to pay the Claimant's legal costs incurred in this matter.

Counsel for the Defendant

10. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my friend, Mr

Thomson, has said.

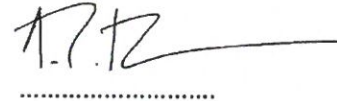
11. The Defendant is here today through me to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the distress caused by the interception of his private voicemail messages. The Defendant accepts that such activity should never have taken place and has undertaken to the Court that this will not happen again.

Solicitor- Advocate for the Claimant

12. In the light of the order which has been made and this statement, the Claimant considers that he is fully vindicated.



Mark Thomson



Anthony Hudson

Counsel for the Defendant