

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION

Case No: HC-2015-000925

B E T W E E N: -

RHYS IFANS

Claimant

- and -

MGN LIMITED

Defendants

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant, Rhys Ifans. My learned friend, Miss Strong, appears for the Defendant.
2. The Claimant is a well-known actor on both stage and screen, best known for his roles in hugely popular films such as *Notting Hill*, *Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows*, *Mr Nice* and *The Amazing Spider-Man*.
3. The Defendant is the publisher of the Mirror, Sunday Mirror and the People newspapers.

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4. In late 2014, the Claimant was notified by officers from Operation Golding that his details appeared in Dan Evans' Palm Pilot address book and that he had been the target of voicemail interception by the Defendant.
 5. As a result, the Claimant instructed solicitors, who issued proceedings against MGN in March 2015. He received extensive disclosure from MGN in August and September of 2015.
 6. The Claimant set out the details of his case in his Particulars of Claim, served in November 2015. By its Defence in February 2016 MGN admitted intercepting the Claimant's voicemail messages over a decade ago and to instructing private investigators to target the Claimant on at least 6 occasions between 2002 and 2005.
 7. The Claimant was very distressed to find that he had been targeted in this way by journalists at MGN, because of media interest in his career, private life and because he was close friends with other well-known individuals. The Claimant is upset that since he was targeted by the Defendant, over a decade ago, he has lost a number of close friends as a result of the distrust created by the Defendant's activities. Had the Defendant's conduct come to light at an earlier stage then these friendships may not have been damaged. This is something which the Claimant bitterly regrets.
 8. I am here today to announce that in February 2016 the Defendant offered to resolve Mr Ifans' claim; an offer that he accepted. The Defendant has paid damages to Mr Ifans and agreed to pay his reasonable legal costs and agreed to join in this statement. Furthermore, the Defendant has also undertaken not to access Mr Ifans' voicemail messages.

Counsel for the Defendant

9. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my Friend, Mr Fox, has said.

10. The Defendant is here today through me to offer its sincere apologies to Mr Ifans for the distress caused to him by the accessing of his voicemail messages over a decade ago. The Defendant acknowledges that Mr Ifans' information should never have been obtained in the manner it was.

Solicitor for the Claimant

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


(HENRY FOX)

Solicitor for the Claimant


Oliver Murphy

Solicitor for the Defendant