

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

BETWEEN:

SIR MICHAEL PARKINSON

Claimant

- and -

ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS LTD

Defendant


STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

1. My Lord, in this matter I appear for the Claimant.
2. The Claimant is a renowned broadcaster and journalist who was born and educated in South Yorkshire. He is also the author of numerous autobiographical books and articles, including an acclaimed autobiography "Parky: My Autobiography", which describe, inter alia, his upbringing in a close knit mining community in Cudworth, near Barnsley. The Defendant is the publisher of, amongst other titles, *The Daily Mail*.
3. On 30 May 2009, the Defendant published an article in The Daily Mail under the headline "*Who's Telling Parkies*", following a dispute in the Parkinson family. This article suggested that the Claimant had behaved in a grossly insensitive way towards his elderly uncle, Bernard Parkinson. The article also alleged that the Claimant had intentionally lied about his family background and his father, by painting a false picture of a harmonious and close knit family and by presenting his father as an honest and well-liked man. The article in the Daily Mail was published in both the print and online versions of the newspaper.
4. As the Defendant now accepts, the allegations are entirely false. The Claimant never treated his elderly uncle, Bernard Parkinson, in a grossly insensitive way. The Claimant did not lie about his family background or

knowingly paint a false picture of a harmonious and close knit family in order to charm readers of his autobiography. In particular, in his autobiography and other writings, the Claimant honestly and properly presented a picture of his father as an honest, upstanding and well liked man.

5. The publication of this article has understandably caused considerable distress and harm to the Claimant.
6. The Defendant has now apologised for and withdrawn the allegations complained of. It has also agreed not to republish the article or the words complained of, as well as to pay the Claimant substantial damages of, £25,000 and reimburse him for the legal costs he has incurred in this claim.
7. In those circumstances, and in light of this vindication, the Claimant has agreed not to pursue his legal claims against the Defendant.


Mark Thomson
Solicitor-Advocate

Atkins Thomson

CASE NO: HQ09X03336

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BETWEEN:

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STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

BEFORE MASTER ROBERTS

BETWEEN:

SIR MICHAEL PARKINSON

Claimant

- and -

ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS LTD

Defendant



Consent Order

UPON the Court having already approved the unilateral Statement in Open Court by Order of Mr Justice Eady of 3rd December 2009

AND UPON the Defendant having undertaken to the Claimant not to repeat the allegation that the Claimant behaved insensitively towards his uncle Bernard and lied in his autobiography about his family background and his father

By Consent

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Claimant be permitted to read the approved Statement in Open Court forthwith as amended by the parties.
2. The Defendant shall pay the Claimant damages of £25,000 within 14 days.
3. The Defendant shall pay the Claimant's cost of the action including the Claimant's costs of this application, to be assessed on a standard basis, if not agreed.

Dated the 25 day of February 2010

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Order

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