

MR JUSTICE VOS

B E T W E E N:-

KELLY HOPPEN

Claimant

- and -

(1) DAN EVANS

(2) NEWS INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(3) "WXY"

(person or persons unknown responsible for accessing or attempting to access the Claimant's voicemail messages between June 2009 and March 2010)

(4) NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

(5) GLENN MULCAIRE

Defendants

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Counsel for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information and breach of confidence, I appear for the Claimant. My Learned Friend, Mr Silverleaf QC, appears for the Second and Fourth Defendants.
2. The Claimant is an interior designer who runs a highly successful business under the trading name of "Kelly Hoppen Interiors" which provides interior design services to clients as well as offering retail sales of high quality objects for the home. The Fourth Defendant was, at all material times, the publisher of the News of the World newspaper which had a considerable readership in this jurisdiction and which also published its content on its website www.newsoftheworld.com.

3. In 2004 and 2006, the Claimant was the subject of numerous articles published in the News of the World, which contained intrusive and private information. The Claimant did not know the source of this information at the time of publication and often could not understand how it was possible for the News of the World to obtain such private information.
4. In 2009, as a result of the Claimant's long held concerns, her solicitors, Atkins Thomson, wrote to the Metropolitan Police Service asking whether they had any evidence that the Claimant had been targeted by News Group Newspapers Limited in 2004-2006. The Claimant was initially informed that the Police had no evidence to suggest that she had been a target in 2004 and 2006. However, in February 2011, they contacted the Claimant to inform her that they had since discovered evidence that she had in fact been a target over this period.
5. On 5 April 2011, the Claimant served her Particulars of Claim against, amongst other Defendants, News Group Newspapers and Glenn Mulcaire for misuse of private information and breach of confidence. Those Particulars also made claims in respect of alleged interceptions in 2009 and 2010.
6. On 8 April 2011, the Fourth Defendant admitted liability for misuse of private information and breach of confidence in respect of the 2004-2006 part of her claim. This meant that an attempt, which may have been successful, had been made to obtain confidential and private information by the unlawful access of the Claimant's voicemail messages and that her confidentiality and privacy were breached. News Group accepted that these activities should not have taken place.
7. The parties have now agreed to settle their differences in respect of all the claims brought by the Claimant. The Second and Fourth Defendants have agreed to pay £60,000 to the Claimant as damages as well as her costs, to be assessed if not agreed. The Court has also granted an injunction preventing any further unlawful accessing of the Claimant's voicemail messages. Furthermore, the First, Second and Fifth Defendants, have, without admission of liability

provided permanent undertakings to the Court, in terms satisfactory to the Claimant.

Counsel for the Fourth Defendant

8. My Lord, on behalf of the Fourth Defendant I confirm everything my Friend, Mr Thomson, has said.
9. The Fourth Defendant is here today through me to confirm that the parties have agreed to settle their differences in respect of all the claims brought by the Claimant. The Fourth Defendant also takes this opportunity to repeat the sincere and unreserved apology it made in April 2011.

Solicitor for the Claimant

10. In the light of the order which has been made and this statement, the Claimant considers that she is fully vindicated in respect of her claim.



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Mark Thomson

Solicitor for the Claimant



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Michael Silverleaf QC Leading Counsel for the Fourth Defendant