

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

BETWEEN:

ANGELA BOSTOCK

Claimant

and

MGN LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant, Angela Bostock. My friend, [], appears for the Defendant, MGN Limited.
2. The Claimant is a private individual, who was once in a relationship with Steve McFadden, the actor, and who had two children with him.
3. The Defendant is the publisher of the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and the People newspapers.
4. In March 2015, it was admitted in the phone hacking trial that a journalist working for the Defendant had intercepted at least one of her voicemail messages in 2003 and had found out that the Claimant was pregnant with Steve McFadden's child.
5. The Claimant was subsequently notified by Operation Golding that she was the victim of phone hacking by MGN Limited. Through disclosure from the MPS in October and December 2015 and subsequently the Defendant, she has discovered that there was call data relating to her over a four year period, that there were four

private investigator invoices relating to her and that she was in both Dan Evans' and Nick Buckley's palm pilot.

6. The Claimant was very distressed to discover that she had been targeted in this way a decade ago. She was particularly upset because the initial story published about her pregnancy in September 2003 had had a domino effect on her life. A number of people close to her, including Steve McFadden, had believed that she had been the source of the story and this led to distrust between them. The Claimant became paranoid and depressed as she could not understand how this and other stories came out in the press. In the end, it caused such a breakdown in the relationship between her and Steve, the father of her children, that it has never been properly repaired. The Claimant never wanted to be in the public eye and, instead, was catapulted into it by MGN Limited. She is extremely distressed at the thought of MGN Limited's journalists listening to her private messages during such a difficult time.
7. The Claimant instructed solicitors to write to MGN Limited on 9 August 2016 and, following negotiations, in November 2016, MGN Limited agreed to pay damages to the Claimant plus her reasonable legal costs. Furthermore, the Defendant has also undertaken not to access the Claimant's voicemail messages.

Counsel for the Defendant

8. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my Friend, [], has said.
9. The Defendant is here today through me to offer its very sincere apologies to the Claimant for the damage, as well as the distress, caused to her by interception of her voicemails and the publication of her private information. The Defendant acknowledges that the information should never have been obtained or used in the manner it was.
10. The Defendant has also undertaken to the Claimant that it will not intercept her voicemails in the future.

Solicitor for the Claimant

11. In the light of the agreement between the parties and this statement, the Claimant considers that the Defendant has made adequate amends for its wrongdoing.



Solicitor for the Claimant



Solicitor for the Defendant

MARCUS PARTINGTON