

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CLAIMS NO: HC11CD3351

CHANCERY DIVISION

BETWEEN:

SADIE FROST

Claimant

and

(1) NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED
(2) GLENN MICHAEL MULCAIRE

Defendants

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor Advocate for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, breach of confidence and harassment, I appear for the Claimant. My learned friend, Michael Silverleaf QC, appears for the First Defendant.
2. The Claimant is a former actress and now successful business woman and fashion designer. Between 1997 and 2003, she was married to Jude Law, with whom she has 3 young children.
3. The First Defendant was 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. The Second Defendant was a private investigator engaged by the First Defendant to carry out various investigative activities. His methods included blagging information from mobile phone companies and the unlawful interception of voicemail messages.

4. Since 2003, the First Defendant has published a series of articles in the News of the World concerning the Claimant's private and family life. Many of these articles contained information, including medical information, that the Claimant did not know the source of. As a result, the Claimant could not understand how this private information was ending up in the public domain. Although the articles would often only contain a small piece of accurate information, it was enough for the Claimant to suspect everyone close to her, and for the Claimant and Mr Law to suspect each other.

5. Over the same period, the Claimant experienced unusual activity on her mobile phones including hang up calls and missing voicemail messages. As a consequence, the Claimant became increasingly worried about her mobile phone security and she changed her phone number on a number of occasions, as well as her mobile phone network.

6. Despite all these precautions, articles carried on appearing in the News of the World, which contained extremely private information. In addition to this, journalists and photographers always appeared to know where the Claimant and her children were going to be, even if the location had only been decided at the last moment. This caused further distrust and suspicion between the Claimant and Mr Law, as well as others close to them.

7. In 2011, after the commencement of Operation Weeting, the Claimant was approached by the Metropolitan Police and shown pages of the Second Defendant's notes showing that she had been targeted by the News of the World over a considerable period of time. The Claimant was also played a number of recorded messages that she had left on the voicemail message service of her children's nanny in 2005-2006, Jade Schmidt.

8. On 28 September 2011, the Claimant issued proceedings against the First and Second Defendants for misuse of private information, breach of confidence and harassment.
9. On 13 December 2011, the First Defendant made a series of extensive admissions in relation to the general practice of voicemail interception at the News of the World. It has also become clear and the First Defendant now accepts that the Defendants targeted the Claimant and the Claimant's voicemail messages in 2003-2006.
10. I am here today to announce that the First Defendant has accepted liability and has agreed to pay damages to the Claimant in the sum of £50,000 plus her legal costs. Furthermore, both Defendants have also undertaken not to further access the Claimant's voicemail messages or to publish unlawfully obtained private information about the Claimant or to put her under surveillance.


Counsel for the First Defendant

11. My Lord, on behalf of the First Defendant, I confirm everything my Friend, Mr Thomson, has said.
12. The First Defendant is here today through me to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the damage, as well as the distress, caused to her by the blagging of her confidential information from sources and the accessing of her voicemail messages and the voicemail messages left by the Claimant for other people. The First Defendant acknowledges that the information should never have been obtained or used in the manner it was and that the First Defendant is liable for misuse of private information, breach of confidence and harassment.

Solicitor- Advocate for the Claimant

13. In the light of the order which has been made and this statement, the Claimant considers that she is wholly vindicated.


Mark Thomson


Michael Silverleaf QC