

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**CHANCERY DIVISION**

**B E T W E E N:**

**JEFF BRAZIER**

**Claimant**

**- and -**

**MGN LIMITED**

**Defendant**

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**Statement in Open Court**

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**Solicitor for the Claimant**

1. In this action for misuse of private information and breach of confidence, I appear for the Claimant, Mr Jeff Brazier. My friend, [ ], appears for the Defendant, MGN Limited.
2. The Claimant is a television presenter and reality TV star, who formerly played professional football. The Claimant is also the father of two children from his relationship with Jade Goody, who tragically passed away in March 2009.
3. The Defendant is the publisher of the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and the People newspapers.
4. In late 2014, the Claimant was notified by officers from Operation Golding that his details appeared in Dan Evans' Palm Pilot and that he had been the target of voicemail interception by the Defendant. On 16 January 2015, a very detailed letter of claim was sent to the Defendant.
5. On 6 March 2015 the Claimant issued proceedings which were served in July 2015. As part of the proceedings, the Claimant received extensive disclosure illustrating

that the Claimant had been targeted by MGN journalists. The Claimant was very distressed to learn this, particularly as the Claimant used his voicemail extensively for both personal and professional reasons and as such, MGN journalists would have been privy to numerous private messages.

6. The Claimant also relied in his Particulars of Claim dated 28 October 2015 on the fact that his name and number were on Dan Evans's Palm Pilot and therefore his messages would have been listened to on a daily basis.
7. In their Defence served on 11 February 2016, MGN admitted intercepting the Claimant's voicemail messages on occasions during the period from March 2003 to August 2006. The Defendant also admitted that 5 of the 22 articles relied upon by the Claimant contained private information obtained from voicemail interception.
8. I am here today to announce that in June 2016 the Defendant settled the Claimant's claim by agreeing to pay substantial damages to the Claimant plus his legal costs. Furthermore, the Defendant has also undertaken not to access the Claimant's voicemail messages or to republish the 5 articles.

#### **Counsel for the Defendant**

9. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my friend, [ ], has said.
10. The Defendant is here today through me to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the damage, as well as the distress, caused to him by the blagging and publication of his confidential information. The Defendant acknowledges that the information should never have been obtained or used in the manner it was a decade ago.
11. The Defendant has also undertaken both to the Claimant and to the Court that it will not intercept his voicemails.

#### **Solicitor for the Claimant**

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