

CLAIM NUMBER HC 2016-003135

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

IN THE MIRROR NEWSPAPERS HACKING LITIGATION

B E T W E E N : -

JAMIE THEAKSTON

Claimant

and

MGN LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

1. My Lord, I appear for the Claimant Jamie Theakston, in his claim for misuse of private information against the Defendant, MGN Limited, who I will refer to as MGN.
2. My learned friend, [], appears for MGN.
3. Mr Theakston is a television and radio presenter, a producer and an actor. He is best known for presenting popular shows such as Top of the Pops and Live and Kicking. He currently presents a radio show on Heart FM, having previously presented on Radio 1

4. MGN is the publisher of newspapers throughout the UK, including three national tabloid newspapers, namely the Daily Mirror, the Sunday Mirror, and the People.
5. In June 2016, Mr Theakston was informed by the Metropolitan Police Service that he was a victim of phone hacking by MGN. He instructed his solicitors to write to MGN to request early disclosure of certain documents. An initial letter was sent on 9 June 2016.
6. It was plain from the initial early disclosure provided by MGN that Mr Theakston was targeted extensively by journalists from all three MGN titles. On 21 October 2016, MGN openly admitted liability to Mr Theakston for misuse of his private information by way of voicemail interception and other unlawful information gathering techniques.
7. Throughout the second half of 2016 various settlement discussions and negotiations between Mr Theakston's lawyers and MGN took place. With those negotiations not being successful, Mr Theakston issued proceedings against MGN on 2 November 2016.
8. In his Particulars of Claim served on 25 January 2017, Mr Theakston alleged amongst other things that he was targeted by MGN throughout the period 1998-2010, that his family were also targeted in order to obtain private information about him and that 42 articles published across all three MGN titles were the product of voicemail interception and/or other unlawful information gathering techniques.
9. Mr Theakston is appalled and angered by the lengths to which MGN went in order to invade his private life over a decade ago. This had a very significant impact on both his personal life, and his professional life. Many relationships were damaged or destroyed as a result of MGN's conduct and this is a source of huge regret to Mr Theakston. He was also very distressed to learn that members of his family were targeted by MGN journalists in order that they could find out information about him.
10. Following service of Mr Theakston's Particulars of Claim, further settlement negotiations took place.
11. I am here today to announce that in April 2017 the parties agreed terms to settle Mr Theakston's claim. In addition to the admission of liability provided in October 2016, MGN has paid Mr Theakston substantial compensation, and has agreed to pay his reasonable legal costs. MGN also undertook not to intercept Mr Theakston's voicemail messages in future and has agreed to join in this Statement in Open Court as part of the agreed settlement. MGN has also

apologised privately to Mr Theakston.

Counsel for the Defendant

12. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, MGN, I confirm everything that my friend [] has said.

13. MGN is here today, through me, to offer its apologies to Mr Theakston for the damage and distress that it caused him by intercepting his voicemail messages over a decade ago.

Solicitor for the Claimant

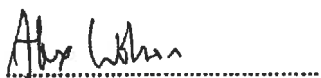
14. My Lord, Mr Theakston is pleased that MGN has acknowledged and apologised for its wrongdoing and in view of this Statement in Open Court, which was agreed as part of his settlement, he considers that this matter is now concluded.

Signed:



Solicitor for Jamie Theakston

19.9.17.



Solicitor for MGN

4.9.17