

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
BUSINESS LIST**

B E T W E E N:

CHRISTOPHER BISSON

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Counsel for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant. My learned friend, _____, appears for the Defendant.
2. The Claimant is a film and television actor who is best known inter alia for his roles in the popular television soaps, Coronation Street, Shameless and Emmerdale, and in the film East is East.
3. The Defendant was the publisher of the News of the World newspaper, which had a considerable readership in this jurisdiction, until its closure in July 2011. The Defendant is currently the publisher of The Sun newspaper, which also publishes its content on its website.
4. The Claimant issued proceedings on 30 March 2017. On 24 November 2017, the Claimant served the Particulars of Claim in which he relied upon 6 articles which were published by the Defendant's newspapers and which he claimed were suspicious and contained private information. The Claimant alleged that, from

about 1999 when the Claimant first joined the cast of Coronation Street, until at least 2008, he experienced intrusion into his private life by journalists at the News of the World. This included receiving telephone calls which he alleged were suspicious and details of his private life, including his relationships, appearing in the media.

5. The Claimant claimed that he and his friends became paranoid and suspicious as to who was the source of the disclosures, which put the Claimant and those close to him under a lot of pressure and put a strain on their relationships.
6. On 12 March 2018, the Defendant served its Defence on the Claimant.
7. On 2 October 2018, the Claimant accepted the Defendant's offer to resolve his claim on terms confidential between the parties, but which involved the Defendant agreeing to pay damages to the Claimant as well as his reasonable legal costs of bringing the claim. The Defendant has provided appropriate undertakings to the Court and the Claimant and agreed to join in this statement to apologise to the Claimant for the distress caused to him by the invasion of his privacy by individuals working for or on behalf of the News of the World.
8. The parties have agreed and noted that the Defendant makes no admission of liability in relation to the Claimant's allegations of voicemail interception and/or other unlawful information gathering at The Sun.

Counsel for the Defendant

9. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my learned friend, Mr Sherborne, has said.
10. The Defendant is here today through me to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the distress caused to him by the invasion of his privacy by individuals

working for or on behalf of the News of the World. The Defendant accepts that such activity should never have taken place.

Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

11. In the light of the order which has been made and this statement, the Claimant considers that the matter is now concluded.



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Emily Jenkins

Solicitor for the Claimant

Clifford Chance LLP

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Solicitors for the Defendant