

Claim No: HC12A03655A

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION BETWEEN:

HANNAH CLEAVER

Claimant

- and -

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Counsel/Solicitor for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information and breach of confidence, I appear for the Claimant. My learned friend, Dinah Rose QC, appears for the Defendant.
2. The Claimant is an English journalist based in Berlin. In 2006 she worked on a freelance basis for the Mail on Sunday covering stories in Germany, which that year hosted the FIFA World Cup between 9 June and 9 July. In May 2006 she was working on World Cup stories for the Mail on Sunday on a freelance basis together with a UK-based Mail on Sunday Journalist, Dennis Rice with whom she was in very regular communication by mobile telephone, including by voicemail, between 24 May and 3 June 2006 in the run-up to the World Cup. Given the level of interest in the World Cup, this was a period of intense competition and rivalry in the British tabloid press, which was competing for stories.

3. On 24 July 2012 the Metropolitan Police Service supplied to the Claimant a transcript of a voicemail message which she had left for Mr Rice with whom she was working for the Mail on Sunday. It is therefore known that a confidential voicemail message which the Claimant left for a Mail on Sunday journalist with whom she was working was accessed and transcribed by the Defendant on at least one occasion. This was a misuse of the Claimant's private information.
4. I am here today to publicly announce that the Defendant has accepted liability for breach of confidence and invasion of privacy in this matter and has agreed to pay damages to the Claimant, together with her legal costs.
5. The Defendant has undertaken not to further unlawfully access voicemail messages left by or for the Claimant or to access or attempt to access by unlawful means the Claimant's private information, or to publish any information which it knows was obtained in this way.

6. **Counsel for the Defendant**

7. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant I confirm everything that my learned Friend Mr Tomlinson QC has said.
8. 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 her by unlawful voicemail interception. The Defendant acknowledges that this information should never have been obtained. The Defendant acknowledges that it is liable for misuse of private information and breach of confidence.

Tamsin Allen

Hugh Tomlinson QC/ Tamsin Allen for the Claimant

linklaters LLP

Linklaters LLP for the Defendant