

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
BUSINESS LIST (ChD)

IN THE MIRROR NEWSPAPERS HACKING LITIGATION

BETWEEN:

KIERON DYER

Claimant

-and-

MGN LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Representative for the Claimant

1. I appear for the Claimant, Kieron Dyer, in his claim for misuse of private information against the Defendant, MGN Limited. My friend, [INSERT], appears for the Defendant.
2. The Claimant was a highly successful footballer during 1998 to 2011, which is the period relating to his claim, playing for Ipswich Town FC between 1996 and 1999; Newcastle United FC between 1999 and 2007; West Ham United between 2007 and 2011; and Queens Park Rangers between 2011 and 2013. The Claimant also represented the English national team and gained 33 caps between 1999 and 2007. Until recently, the Claimant was Ipswich Town under 23s Coach and Manager. The Claimant is currently involved in TV and Radio work as a pundit.
3. The Defendant is the publisher of three national tabloid newspapers, namely the Daily Mirror, the Sunday Mirror and The People.
4. Due to the Claimant's status as a Premiership and England international footballer, he was of interest to journalists employed by the Defendant. The Claimant appeared in articles published by the Defendant in its newspapers during 1998 to 2011, the period relating to this claim.
5. In May 2018 the Claimant advanced a claim against the Defendant (as subsequently re-re-amended) for voicemail interception and the misuse of his private information. His claim was that

he had been the victim of unlawful information gathering by various journalists employed by the Defendant.

6. The Claimant alleged that the Defendant misused his private information not only through accessing of his voicemail messages and/or the blagging or unlawful obtaining of personal information relating to him, but also by publishing articles which appeared in the Defendant's newspapers which contained private information about the Claimant and his private life. The Claimant contended that the information would not have been published but for the voicemail interception or unlawful obtaining of personal information by the Defendant and/or its journalists or those acting on their behalf.
7. In support of his claim, the Claimant relied on, amongst other things, 63 articles published about him in the Defendant's newspapers (the **Articles**) and various invoices or payment records of private investigators relating to the Claimant as well as his associates.
8. The Claimant was significantly impacted by press intrusion at the time. The Claimant recalled being followed, both by journalists and photographers, being door-stepped at his home and being approached on nights out on numerous occasions. The Claimant also recalled that, on a weekly basis when he would go somewhere, either alone or with close friends and family, photographers were waiting at the locations he visited. This led to the Claimant questioning relationships with close friends and family and suffering from a complete lack of trust in all of his associates. As a result, the Claimant's family suffered distress.
9. The Claimant was upset at the time that the Articles were published containing his private information. He found that as a result of the publication of the Articles, his relationships with the public, colleagues, friends and family suffered and sometimes he "lost their trust" and was not put in a positive light. The Claimant feels that this has impacted his career. The Claimant described the experience as "horrible" and he felt "ridiculed" and his mental health and reputation took an impact.
10. On 19 November 2018, the Defendant served its Defence (which was later amended on 9 July 2021). The Defendant admitted to unlawfully intercepting the Claimant's voicemails on occasions between March 2003 and December 2004 as well as that private investigators were instructed by journalists employed by the Defendant to unlawfully obtain private information about the Claimant on eight occasions in 2003 and 2005, but the Defendant denied or did not admit that any of the articles complained of were the product of unlawful information gathering activities.
11. After nearly 6 years of litigating, in April 2024, the parties reached an agreement to resolve the Claimant's claim. As part of that agreement the Defendant agreed to provide an undertaking to the Claimant not to access or attempt to access voicemails left for or by him or otherwise illegally obtain his private information, paid him damages and agreed to pay his reasonable legal costs.

Counsel for the Defendant

- 12. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, MGN, I confirm everything that my friend has said.
- 13. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its apologies to the Claimant for the damage and distress caused to him by the misuse of his private information over a decade ago on the occasions referred to by my friend.
- 14. MGN accepts and acknowledges that the Claimant's private information should not have been obtained and used in the manner it was.

Representative for the Claimant

- 15. My Lord, the Claimant 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:

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Solicitors for Kieron Dyer

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Solicitors for MGN