

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION

B E T W E E N:

FRANK BRUNO

Claimant

and

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Hanna Basha, Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

1. In this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant, Frank Bruno. My learned friend Anthony Hudson QC appears for the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited.
2. Frank Bruno is a former professional boxer and former heavyweight champion of the world. He was the subject of considerable interest to the national press throughout his professional boxing career and since retiring from boxing has continued his life in the public eye. Throughout this period his life has been extensively reported on in the Defendant's newspapers.
3. The Defendant is News Group Newspapers Limited, a subsidiary company of News Corp UK and Ireland Limited trading as News UK. News Group Newspapers Limited was the publisher of the *News of the World* newspaper until its closure in July 2011. It also publishes *The Sun*. Until its closure, the *News of the World* was the UK's biggest selling Sunday newspaper and *The Sun* was and is still one of the most read and most popular newspapers in the UK.
4. Mr Bruno issued proceedings against the Defendant on 31 March 2017 claiming damages for voicemail interception and other unlawful information gathering activities. On 4 August 2017, the Claimant served his Particulars of Claim in which he relied on 59 articles published about him by the Defendant between 1998 and 2009. It is Mr Bruno's case that he was extremely upset by the publication of the articles, and that their publication caused him to become paranoid and suspicious as to who might be the source of the

information contained in them, which put pressure on his mental health and relationships with friends and family.

5. On 8 September 2017, the Defendant served its Defence.
6. The parties have now reached an agreement to settle the claim, the precise terms of which are confidential, but which involve the Defendant agreeing to pay substantial damages to Mr Bruno and his reasonable legal costs. The Defendant has provided appropriate undertakings to the Court and to Mr Bruno, and agreed to join in this statement. The parties have agreed and noted that the Defendant makes no admission of liability in relation to Mr Bruno's allegations of voicemail interception and/or unlawful information gathering at *The Sun*.

Anthony Hudson QC, Counsel for the Defendant

7. My Lord on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything that has been said by my friend Ms Basha.
8. The Defendant is here today through me to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the distress caused by the invasion of the Claimant's 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 and that it had no right to intrude into the Claimant's private life in this way. In addition, the Defendant sincerely apologises to Mr Bruno for the distress caused to him by the articles on which he relied relating to his mental health. It was never the Defendant's intention to cause him any harm.

Hanna Basha, Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant

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

Payne Hicks Beach

For and on behalf of the Claimant

Clifford Chance LLP

For and on behalf of the Defendant