

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

CLAIM NUMBER: HQ11D00796

B E T W E E N:

CAROLE CAPLIN

Claimant

- and -

ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS LTD

Defendant

STATEMENT IN COURT

Claimant's Solicitor - Advocate, David Price QC: In this claim for libel I appear for the Claimant, Carole Caplin. Ms Caplin is a lifestyle consultant who advises clients on all aspects of health and fitness. The Defendant is the publisher of *The Daily Mail* a newspaper with a large and influential circulation in England and Wales.

The claim arises from an article headed "*Carole's £1m question: Will she tell all about Blairs' sex secrets?*" which was published on the front page and page 13 of *The Daily Mail* on 18 September 2010 and on its website. The article alleged that Ms Caplin may be about to reveal intimate details about her former clients Tony and Cherie Blair in a book. It was claimed that Ms Caplin had insisted that Mrs Blair tell her every last detail of their sex life and that publication of these revelations would blow the lid on the Blairs' marriage and finish them. The article also suggested that Ms Caplin had financial difficulties and that she would receive significant financial reward for her book.

The truth is that, contrary to the article, Ms Caplin has never had any intention of disclosing any confidential information concerning the Blairs. She has consistently and unequivocally stated this over a number of years. In any event, Ms Caplin does not possess any sex secrets or other information that could "*finish*" them. She did not insist that Mrs Blair tell her every last detail of her sex life or discuss such matters with her. Ms Caplin is not in any financial difficulties.

The article may also have been understood to mean that massages given by Ms Caplin to Mr Blair were in some way improper. There is no basis for such an allegation. The Defendant has stated that it did not intend to convey such an impression and has apologised if this was the case.

Ms Caplin was extremely upset and distressed by the article. Despite her unequivocal stance that she would never publish confidential information about the Blairs, the media has continued to suggest that she may do so. She was not prepared to allow this article to remain unchallenged and brought this claim for libel in order to obtain public vindication and prevent further unfounded speculation.

I am pleased to tell your Lordship that the Defendant has made an offer of amends which has been accepted by Ms Caplin. Pursuant to that offer, the Defendant has published an apology in the *Daily Mail* and agreed to pay Ms Caplin a substantial sum in damages to be assessed if not agreed and her legal costs. The reading of this statement today will stand as further vindication to Ms Caplin and assist her in making clear the true position.