

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

Claim No:HQ13D03209

BETWEEN:-

ALAN CRAGGS

Claimant

and

DAVID HARVEY

Defendant

CLAIMANT'S STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Adam Speker

Counsel for the Claimant

My Lord, in this claim for slander, I appear for the Claimant, Alan Craggs and Mr Timothy Smith, appears for the Defendant, Mr Harvey.

From 2009 until late in 2011 the Claimant was the Chairman of the Parish Hall Management Committee in Rowlands Castle, a village in Hampshire. The Defendant was the Chairman of the Rowlands Castle Parish Council.

At a meeting on 26 April 2011 open to the public and attended by members of the local press, the Defendant stated that the Claimant had been engaged in a three year campaign of harassment against a female employee of the Council; that this employee required protection from the Claimant and that he had sent her a number of inappropriate emails. Some of those present understood that to be an allegation of sexual harassment. The Defendant wishes to clarify that this was not what he meant and he accepts that such an allegation would not have been true.

I am pleased to say that the Defendant recognises that all allegations as to sexual harassment are untrue and is here by his Counsel to apologise for the enormous distress and hurt that has been caused to the Claimant and his wife as a result. He has also agreed to pay the Claimant damages together with a contribution towards his legal costs.

Solicitor for the Defendant

My Lord, the Defendant apologises to the Claimant through me and has agreed to pay him substantial damages, together with a contribution towards his legal costs, and has also agreed not to repeat the allegations.

Counsel for the Claimant

In the circumstances, all that remains is for me to ask your Lordship for permission to withdraw the record.