

CLAIM NO: HC14A00445

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION

B E T W E E N:

DAVID EDWARD WILLIAMS  
(a.k.a. DAVID WALLIAMS)

Claimant

- and -

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

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STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

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Solicitor for the Claimant

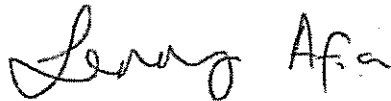
1. My Lord, in this action for misuse of private information, I represent the Claimant. My friend [Anthony White QC] appears for the Defendant.
2. The Claimant is a comedian, actor, author and a trustee of Comic Relief. Although he is very well known as a result of his work, the Claimant strives to live a private life in the public eye and has previously taken steps to safeguard his privacy.
3. The Defendant was the publisher of the '*News of the World*' newspaper.
4. Since at least 2005, a number of articles were published in the *News of the World* containing private information about the Claimant.
5. The Claimant could not understand how journalists were obtaining his private information. The process understandably caused him to distrust people, including friends and girlfriends, creating a sense of paranoia and worry.
6. In March 2013, the Claimant was approached by the Metropolitan Police

regarding information they had obtained about him. This information included call data evidence from 2005 and an entry in the palm pilot of Mr Dan Evans (a journalist formerly employed by the Defendant) containing the Claimant's contact details. The Claimant was also told that Mr Evans had admitted that he had intercepted the Claimant's voicemail as well as voicemails he had left for another person.

7. Consequently, on 31 January 2014, the Claimant issued proceedings against NGN Limited via his solicitors, Schillings, for misuse of his private information.
8. The Claimant sought damages and aggravated damages. In support of his claim for aggravated damages, the Claimant relied upon his anxiety about trusting people. The fact that the Claimant did not know how the Defendant was obtaining information about him contributed to his anxiety. An example alleged by the Claimant (which the Defendant does not accept and has not pleaded to), was where the Claimant's PR agent was telephoned by reporters belonging to the Defendant within 30 minutes of having reported his car being broken into.
9. The Defendant has admitted liability for misuse of certain private information, as a consequence of voicemail interception directed at the Claimant.
10. The Defendant has agreed to pay substantial damages to the Claimant in full and final settlement of all the claims brought by the Claimant as well as his legal costs. Furthermore, the Defendant has provided a permanent undertaking to the Court not to unlawfully access or attempt unlawfully to access voicemail messages or other private information left by or for the Claimant, nor to publish or use any information which it knows was obtained in this way.

**Counsel for the Defendant**

11. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything that Miss Afia has said insofar as it concerns the Defendant and its conduct directed at the Claimant.



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Jenny Afia  
Partner  
Schillings  
Solicitor for the Claimant

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[Counsel for the Defendant]