

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

CLAIM NO: HQ14D03759

BETWEEN:

TOM ELLIS

Claimant

AND

MGN LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

The Claimant's Solicitor

My Lord, this is an action for defamation and misuse of private information, in which I appear for the Claimant, Mr Tom Ellis, a professional actor. [NAME] appears on behalf of the Defendant, MGN Limited, which is the publisher of the Sunday Mirror newspaper and its website.

The claim arises out of an article that was published by the Defendant on 13 July 2014, entitled "*Tamzin Outhwaite and ex-husband Tom Ellis in bitter battle over child support payments*". The article claimed that my client had deliberately sought to shirk his responsibility to pay child maintenance for his two daughters with Ms Outhwaite, by claiming he was too cash strapped to do so, and that this had forced his ex-wife to threaten him with lawyers to ensure that he met his obligations as a father.

To have such defamatory allegations published in a national newspaper was deeply upsetting for my client. His distress was compounded by the fact that, as is obvious, the financial arrangements regarding his children are private.

As the Defendant has now admitted, there was also no truth in the story. There had been no such row between my client and his ex-wife, bitter or otherwise. Whilst details of the childcare arrangements are, as I say, private, Mr Ellis has in fact never failed to pay his share of child maintenance, nor has he ever claimed that he could not afford to do so.

It is for that reason that he instructed me to commence this action against the Defendant and I am pleased to be able to confirm that MGN Limited now accepts that the allegations it made were false. It has agreed to join in the reading of this statement in an effort to set the record straight. It has also agreed not to repeat the allegations complained of, and has also agreed to pay him substantial damages as well as legal costs.

The Defendant's Solicitor

My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm what has been said by Mr Dawkins. The Defendant hereby apologises to Mr Ellis for the publication of the article complained of and is pleased to have this ability to set the record straight.