

ANNEX A

Claim No: HQ15X04238

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

BETWEEN

KERRY-ANN MORRIS

Claimant

-and-

LOCAL WORLD LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant:

My Lord, I appear on behalf of the Claimant, Lance Bombardier Kerry-Ann Morris and my friend Mr Callus appears for the Defendant, Local World Limited. This claim arises in connection with two versions of an article published online on 5 June 2015 on the Nottingham Post's website, entitled "*Shanay Walker death: So who IS to blame?*" which was viewed by a maximum total of 8,137 unique readers.

The Claimant is a Lance Bombardier in the British Army, a serving soldier who, at the time of the article, was based in Germany. The Claimant moved out of her home aged sixteen to live in a women's hostel after suffering extensive physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her mother. The Claimant was accepted into the British Army in 2011 having been awarded a Distinction in her Uniformed Public Services Diploma and Certificate. Since joining the British Army the Claimant has received excellent grades from the Board and consistently been at the top of her intake. The Claimant has been the face of the Army Equality and Diversity campaign, and represents her Regiment, the British Army and the Combined Services in Athletics.

The article concerns the tragic death of the Claimant's niece, seven year old Shanay Walker at the home of Kay-Ann Morris, the claimant's non-identical twin sister. Kay-Ann Morris and the Claimant's mother were charged with murder and convicted of child cruelty in relation to their ongoing treatment of Shanay Walker. The Claimant attended court on 23 April 2015 in order to give evidence for the prosecution against her twin sister and her mother.

The article was illustrated by a number of photographs, one of which was of the Claimant taken outside court, and which incorrectly identified the Claimant as her twin sister, against whom the Claimant was testifying that day.

The meaning of the combined article and photograph is that the Claimant was tried for murder of a young child in her care and convicted of cruelty to that child. The article caused the Claimant very considerable upset; and she says the stress it caused also had a knock-on effect on her ability to work and train to the best of her abilities.

There is, of course, no truth in these allegations. The Claimant is an upstanding citizen serving her country in the British Army. The Claimant has been stationed in Germany since 2012 and had no part in the abuse of Shanay Walker. The Claimant was a key prosecution witness in the criminal trial of her twin sister and mother.

The Defendant acknowledged its mistake and removed the incorrect photograph from its website. It then made an unqualified Offer of Amends, and soon afterwards, it published an agreed apology online.

The Defendant is represented by its counsel and is here today to apologise again for the distress and hurt which the article and photograph have caused to the Claimant. The Defendant also offered the Claimant compensation, which has now been agreed, for the considerable reputational harm, distress and hurt caused to her.

Counsel for the Defendant:

My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm all that has been said on the Claimant's behalf. The Defendant apologised online on 26th, 27th, and 28th August 2015 and it now repeats its apology to the Claimant for the distress and hurt caused to her. The Defendant removed the offending photograph from the article and has agreed not to republish any materials conveying this defamatory meaning or any similar meaning.

Solicitor for the Claimant:

My Lord, with that the Claimant is content to let matters rest.