

**CLAIM NO. BL-2019-001805**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS**  
**OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE MIRROR NEWSPAPER HACKING LITIGATION**

**BEFORE: THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE FANCOURT**

B E T W E E N : -

**PAUL BURRELL**

**Claimant**

and

**MGN LIMITED**

**Defendant**

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**STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

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**Francis Leonard, Taylor Hampton, Solicitor for the Claimant.**

1. My Lord in this action for misuse of private information, I appear for the Claimant and my friend appears for the Defendant, the publishers of The Daily Mirror, The Sunday Mirror and The People.
2. The Claimant ("*Mr Burrell*") was the butler and close personal friend of Princess Diana from 1987 to 1997. He went on to become a prominent media personality, and in 2002 he was the defendant in a high profile criminal trial,

for the alleged theft of the Princess' belongings. The trial, and the events that led to its collapse, garnered immense, international media attention.

3. The Defendant, MGN, publishes *the Daily Mirror, the Sunday Mirror and the People*.
4. Between 1995 and 2008, the Claimant was targeted by the Defendant because he was a close friend and trusted confidante to Princess Diana and then subsequently because of his role within the public sphere following his departure from the Royal Household.
5. During Diana's lifetime, the activities of the Defendant caused his relationship with her to deteriorate, as she wrongly thought that her highly sensitive personal information was being leaked to the press. The Defendant targeted his voicemail messages which contained highly sensitive information about his personal, private and family life, his business affairs including sensitive personal information, and privileged information relating to his arrest, the charges brought against him, and his legal proceedings. The Defendant also instructed private investigators to undertake enquiries into the Claimant and his associates on at least three occasions between 2001 and 2002. The information obtained was the product of deception or fraud. This led to the publication of numerous articles concerning the Claimant, arising from unlawfully obtained information, which severely impacted his reputation. In relation to his criminal trial, the intense negative daily press coverage led to a disintegration of the Claimant's relationship with his wife and children, causing great psychological harm. It also undermined his relationship with his legal team who believed he was leaking confidential information which impacted on his preparation for trial. He was hospitalised for a short period because of the trauma.
6. The Claimant was deeply angry and upset to discover that he had been targeted by those working for the Defendant. However, owing to the deliberate destruction of documents by MGN, he will never find out the true extent to which his privacy was invaded. Whilst he has received limited evidence of misuse of private information from what remains of the Defendant's records, he does not know, and will never know, the full extent of the Defendant's activities.

7. I am pleased to announce that the Defendant has now accepted responsibility for its unlawful actions, admitted liability and has agreed to apologise to the Claimant for the repeated invasion of his privacy. The Defendant has also agreed on terms confidential between the parties to pay substantial damages to the Claimant as well as his legal costs. Furthermore, the Defendant has undertaken to the Court not to unlawfully access the Claimant's voicemail messages or to knowingly publish or use any information which it knows was obtained by unlawfully accessing voicemail messages by or for the Claimant.

**Alexander Vakil, RPC, Solicitor for the Defendant**

8. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my friend, Mr Leonard, has said.
9. The Defendant is here today through me to offer its sincere apologies to the Claimant for the damage, as well as the distress, caused to him by the obtaining of his private information and the accessing of his voicemail messages. It has undertaken never to repeat these actions. The Defendant acknowledges that this information should never have been obtained or used in the manner it was and that it is liable for the misuse of private information.

**Solicitor for the Claimant**

10. In light of the undertaking not to repeat, and the payment of substantial damages to the Claimant by the Defendant, and the public apology given to him today, the Claimant considers that he has been fully vindicated and is happy to let the matter rest.

*Taylor Hampton*  
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Taylor Hampton Solicitors Limited

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