

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

BETWEEN:

RUSSELL BRAND

Claimant

- and -

NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

SOLICITOR FOR THE CLAIMANT

May it please your Lordship, in this matter I appear on behalf of the Claimant and my friend appears on behalf of the Defendant.

The Claimant, Russell Brand, is a well-known and highly successful comedian, actor and writer. The Claimant is in a relationship with his girlfriend, Jemima Khan and has spoken publicly of his love and commitment towards her.

The Defendant is the publisher of The Sun on Sunday, a newspaper with a large circulation and readership within the jurisdiction.

On 17 November 2013, the Defendant published a front page Exclusive article under the headline "*RUSSELL CHEATED ON HIS JEMIMA WITH ME*" printed in one and a half inch high lettering across the front of the newspaper.

The article falsely claimed that the Claimant had deliberately deceived the general public, as well as his girlfriend Jemima Khan, by falsely proclaiming that he was being faithful to Ms Khan when in fact he was repeatedly cheating on her by having sex with Sophie Coady during a four-month fling with Ms Coady whilst he was in a committed relationship with Ms Khan. Given the prominence devoted to the story in such a high selling newspaper, it was inevitable that the article was picked up and repeated in other media as in fact it was.

The allegations are entirely without foundation and of course they were distressing, hurtful and damaging to the Claimant. Following publication Mr Brand immediately wrote to the Sun on Sunday on the very day the article came out through his solicitors Harbottle & Lewis who informed the newspaper that the claims were false, that they should be withdrawn and that an apology should be published. The Claimant's distress was increased as a result of the Defendant's initial refusal to remove the article from the newspapers' website, or to withdraw the allegations and publish an apology. After the newspaper refused to apologise Mr Brand issued proceedings for libel.

The Defendant now accepts that these claims are in fact totally untrue and defamatory and that these claims should never have been published.

The Defendant is here today publicly to set the record straight, to undertake never to republish the allegations complained of and to apologise to the Claimant and Jemima Khan for the distress and embarrassment the article has caused. In addition the Defendant has also agreed to publish an apology and pay the Claimant substantial damages as well as his legal costs. The Claimant will provide said damages towards what he considers to be diverse, just and decent causes.

SOLICITOR FOR THE DEFENDANT

My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant in this action, I accept everything my friend Mr Kelly has said. Through me the Defendant sincerely apologises to the Claimant for the distress and embarrassment this article has caused. It accepts that the allegations are untrue and ought never to have been published.

SOLICITOR FOR THE CLAIMANT

My Lord, it only remains for me to ask for leave that the record be withdrawn.

John Kelly Partner
Harbottle & Lewis LLP
Solicitor for the Claimant

Jeffrey Smele
Simons Muirhead & Burton
Solicitor for the Defendant

CLAIM NO: HX13D05579

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