

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

**Claim No: HC-2017-000899**

**CHANCERY DIVISION**

**BETWEEN:**

**RUPERT LOWE**

**Claimant**

- and -

**NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LIMITED**

**Defendant**

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**STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

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**Solicitor for the Claimant**

1. I appear for the Claimant, Rupert Lowe, in his claim for misuse of private information against the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited. My friend, Anthony Hudson QC appears for the Defendant.
2. Mr Lowe was the Executive Chairman and Joint Managing Director of Southampton Football Club between 1997 and 2006. He was also very involved at the time in administration of the game at the most senior level, serving on the Boards of the FA and Wembley National Stadium.
3. The Defendant is the publisher of *The Sun* and was the publisher of the *News of the World* until its closure in July 2011.

4. In June 2015, Mr Lowe was contacted by the Metropolitan Police Service and informed that he may have been a victim of voicemail interception by the Defendant. Mr Lowe issued these proceedings on 28 March 2017.
5. Mr Lowe alleged in the proceedings that he had been unlawfully targeted by the Defendant's journalists at the *News of the World* and *The Sun* for many years, not just because of their interest in Southampton but also because of Mr Lowe's extensive contacts with players, managers and key figures in the game.
6. Mr Lowe alleged that 27 articles were published by the Defendant's newspapers between 1999 and 2006 which were the product of voicemail interception or other unlawful information gathering. Mr Lowe claimed that as a result of these publications he had started to distrust colleagues or associates.
7. I am pleased to report that the parties have been able to agree terms of settlement. These include the payment of a substantial sum by way of damages, payment of Mr Lowe's costs and the reading of this Statement in Open Court. Under the agreement the parties have agreed and noted that the Defendant makes no admission of liability in relation to the parts of the Claimant's claim relating to *The Sun* newspaper.

**Solicitor for the Defendant**

8. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited, I confirm everything that my friend has said.
9. The Defendant is here today, through me, to offer its apologies to Mr Lowe for the distress that it caused him by the invasion of his privacy by individuals working for or on behalf of the *News of the World* and accepts that such activity should never have taken place.