

Wright v McCormack Timeline

17 April 2019	Service of the Claim Form containing Publications 1-10.
2 May 2019	Service of the Particulars of Claim containing Publications 1-10.
8 August 2019	Service of the Defence.
19 June–18 Oct 2019	D publishes Publications 11-16.
11 October 2019	Service of the Reply.
19 December 2019	Service of the Amended POC (" APOC "), amended to include Publications 11-16 (by consent pursuant to CPR 17.1(2)(a)).
18 March 2020	Service of the Amended Defence (" ADef ") (also amended by consent).
14 July 2020	Application to amend the Claim Form to include publications 11-16 (" First Amendment Application ")
24 July 2020	D applies to strike out the claim (" the Strike Out Application ") and all applications are put off until a hearing on 23-24 November 2020 (" the November Hearing ").
18 October 2020	Limitation period expires for Publications 11-16 before the First Amendment Application is heard.
23 October 2020	D writes to C, withdrawing his strike out application, abandoning his entire defence, and stating that he would no longer be defending the claim ostensibly on the ground of impecuniosity. However, in correspondence, D refused to consent to judgment being entered against him but did not now oppose the First Amendment application.
10 November 2020	C applies for summary judgment against D. It is listed to be heard at the November Hearing.
23 November 2020	The November Hearing before Nicol J: D was not represented nor did he appear. Nicol J raised the issue that the timestamps of Tweets pleaded on the Claim Form did not align with those on the APOC. Given that D no longer intended to defend the claim, C also withdrew his data protection claim and any claim in respect of Publication 11, which had been out of time at the time of issuing the First Amendment Application.
23 November 2020	C made an application to amend the Claim Form to harmonise the timestamps with those shown on the APOC (" the Third Amendment Application ").
11 December 2020	In the pre-trial checklist, D changed his position, and decided to substantively defend the claim and represent himself at trial.
22 December 2020	D filed a witness statement with Exhibits consisting of 1015 pages, instructed solicitors and counsel to produce a skeleton argument for trial, and refused to agree to strike out his pleaded defences that he would not be relying upon. He also indicated that he would not cross-examine C and only make short oral submissions at trial.
4 February 2020	By Order of Nicol J, the two-day trial was repurposed as a two-day PTR to determine the extant applications.