

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST

BETWEEN:

ARRON SYKES

Claimant

and

MELANIE SHAW

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Counsel for the Claimant

1. On 11 May 2021, in the early hours of the morning following the inquest into the cause of death of Ms Jodie Sykes' passing, the Defendant published a Facebook post.
2. The post contained a picture of Ms Jodie Sykes and contained comments (the "**Publication**") which were an attack on the Claimant's reputation and the Defendant now appreciates that this has caused him and his family distress.
3. The Defendant accepts that the Claimant:
 - a) did not kill or otherwise caused the death of Ms Sykes and Ms Burrows;
 - b) did not mentally and physically abuse Ms Sykes and Ms Burrows;
 - c) will not kill and/or physically and mentally abuse his current partner;

- d) is not engaged in violent criminal activity;
 - e) does not torture and abuse women; and / or
 - f) is not a danger to women.
- 4. As was foreseeable at the time of publication, the defamatory allegations were read by a number of readers, causing harm to the Claimant's reputation.
 - 5. The Defendant has apologised, and agreed to pay a substantial sum by way of compensation and not to repeat the allegations.

Counsel for the Defendant

- 6. On behalf of Ms Shaw, I accept everything that My Learned Friend has said. Ms Shaw retracts and apologises for the defamatory allegations made in the Publication.
- 7. Ms Shaw accepts that she should not have made the defamatory allegations she did in the Publication. Ms Shaw regrets the damage the defamatory allegations caused to Mr Sykes' reputation and the distress, hurt and embarrassment caused to him.
- 8. Ms Shaw has agreed to pay Mr Sykes a substantial sum by way of compensation.

Counsel for the Claimant

- 9. Thank you, my Lord/Lady.