

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

KING'S BENCH DIVISION

BEFORE:

B E T W E E N:-

GABBY LOGAN AND KENNY LOGAN

Claimants

and

GWILYM JONES

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Counsel for the Claimants

My Lord, I appear for the Claimants in this action, Gabby and Kenny Logan.

The First Claimant is a well-known television presenter and journalist. The Second Claimant is her husband who is an ex-professional rugby player who now works as a businessman in the sports industry.

The Defendant is Gwilym Jones who is a director of Henderson & Jones Limited which is a litigation investment company that purchases and funds litigation and arbitration claims. It describes itself as "*a team of expert litigators and accountants with years of experience of complex and high-value litigation*".

On or around 27 February 2023 Mr Jones was quoted in a statement on the **Mail Online** website which alleged that Gabby and Kenny Logan had received income amounting to £500,000 for promoting tax avoidance schemes to their celebrity friends and had sought falsely to characterise that income as loans. They had done no such thing.

The **Mail Online** has since deleted the article, retracted the allegations that it contained and apologised to Gabby and Kenny Logan for having published the allegations.

The **Mail Online** article contained this statement by Mr Jones which is defamatory of Mr and Mrs Logan: "*Companies controlled by Kenny Logan and Gabby Logan worked with Welbeck to sell tax-avoidance schemes and tried to disguise their income from this as 'loans' to avoid paying (yet more) tax. We consider the companies' accounts are clear - these payments were treated as loans, which now have to be repaid*".

By these words Mr Jones claimed falsely that Gabby and Kenny Logan are guilty of fraudulently misrepresenting income as loans to evade tax obligations; and that they conspired with Welbeck companies to sell products that they knew were tax-avoidance schemes. The publication of the words complained of caused serious harm and distress to the Gabby and Kenny Logan.

The context of the defamatory statement which is the subject of these proceedings is that as part of their litigation practice Henderson & Jones purchased from two dissolved companies, Welbeck Wealth Management Limited and Welbeck Consulting Limited, the right to bring money claims against companies in which Kenny Logan had share capital, commencing those proceedings in 2020. I will refer to these proceedings as the Welbeck Action.

The Defendants in the Welbeck Action are Klas International Limited and Logan Group Limited. Kenny Logan is a director of the Logan Group and Gabby Logan is the company secretary. Kenny Logan was a director of Klas International until July 2021.

Mr Jones also falsely alleged that the Gabby and Kenny Logan had “*tried to disguise their income from this as 'loans' to avoid paying (yet more) tax*”. This was not true of Kenny Logan, and Gabby Logan had not even received any such income. Mr Logan was in fact paid by Welbeck merely to attend events and network in his capacity as a former rugby player. He has informed Henderson Jones that tax was fully paid on all income he earned thereby, as his accountant has confirmed.

When, after extended correspondence both with him and his solicitors, Mr Jones repeatedly refused to retract the false and seriously defamatory allegations that he had made against Mr and Mrs Logan via the ***Mail Online***, these proceedings were issued. The Logans made Part 36 offers to Mr Jones which he eventually accepted. He has now paid substantial damages to the Logans and has agreed indemnify their legal costs to be assessed if not agreed.

Since the purpose of these proceedings has now been achieved, I now seek My Lord's leave to withdraw the record.