

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

KELVIN MACKENZIE

Defendant

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STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

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**Counsel for the Claimant**

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

Gabby Logan is a sports presenter, and her husband works as a businessman in the sports industry. The Defendant, Kelvin Mackenzie, was for thirteen years the Editor of the Sun

On 28 February, the Defendant posted a tweet concerning the Claimants which read as follows: "*BBC star Gabby Logan and her husband were paid more than £500,000 (five hundred thousand) to promote a major tax avoidance scheme to their celebrity friends. Shocking*".

Imbedded in the tweet was footage of the Defendant speaking the following words to camera on one of his Daily Exposure podcasts: *“Gabby Logan only a few months back now was the face of the BBC in its World Cup coverage in Qatar. Well in the courts there is a different vision of the delightful Gabby beginning to emerge. Gabby and her husband Kenny Logan, a former Scottish rugby player have now admitted that they were effectively commission agents for a tax avoidance scheme and what they did was, they would invite their celebrity friends at Ascot or other places and try and encourage them to go with this particular form of chicanery run by a guy who has now gone bust and HMRC are in full pursuit of him. But somebody else is in full pursuit of them which is the liquidators of the company that flogged the tax avoidance scheme because unbelievably Gabby Logan and her husband picked up £500,000 in commission for encouraging dupes out there to take these tax avoidance schemes, £500,000 and yet she is in Qatar where there BBC are all, God isn’t it terrible out there, isn’t it terrible out there, these people are, yeah it is not criminal but it is damn close to it and what is happening now is that they are saying they were paid the commission, actually it was put in the books as loans in order to be make it more “tax efficient” so they were at it every single possible way ... The bottom line is, how shocking is it that they would use their fame to encourage people to go down a route which was in the end going to cost them tens of millions of pounds; beyond shocking, beyond shocking that she could appear on our BBC screens every night”*.

The tweet thereby alleged that Gabby and Kenny Logan earned huge sums of money in commission for promoting tax avoidance schemes which resulted in the loss of millions of pounds by those that invested in them. It further alleged that they also sought illegally to evade Income Tax by falsely claiming that that income which they received in the form of commission was in fact loans.

The true facts are that although Kenny was a brand ambassador for a company that sold financial products which included tax avoidance schemes and earned commission for making introductions, neither Gabby nor Kenny Logan ever promoted tax avoidance schemes, either to their celebrity friends or to

anyone else. Still less did they admit to so doing. Neither did they receive commission of £500,000 for this alleged activity. The suggestion that through their actions, victims of a tax avoidance scheme at issue lost “tens of millions of pounds” is also false.

The Defendant has now deleted the tweet, paid substantial damages both to Gabby and Kenny Logan, and indemnified them for their legal costs.

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