

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Claim No.HQ08X03419

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

B E T W E E N:-

MATTHEW PEACOCK

Claimant

- and -

MGN LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant,

My Lord, in this libel action I appear for the Claimant, Matt Peacock.

Matt Peacock is a model and MGN Limited is the publisher of the Sunday Mirror.

This is an action for libel arising out of a false and defamatory allegation published in the Sunday Mirror's *Celebs on Sunday* magazine on 13 April 2008 and online that Matt Peacock was violent towards his ex-wife in November 2007, and that this was the reason their relationship ended shortly afterwards. There is no truth in this allegation whatsoever.

The Defendant did not contact Matt Peacock before publication of the allegation to ask him whether or not it was accurate or for his comments. He therefore complained through solicitors on 16 April 2008, and the Sunday Mirror removed the allegation from its website shortly thereafter.

However, the publication of this false and serious allegation was extremely embarrassing and distressing for the Claimant, and hurtful for his family. Matt Peacock was not therefore prepared to let the allegation go unchallenged and on 2 September 2008 commenced this claim for libel.

Following negotiations, the parties have now settled this claim, with the Defendant agreeing not to repeat the allegation complained of, paying to Mr Peacock £15,000 in damages and his legal costs. Matt Peacock welcomes this opportunity to make clear that the allegation published by the Defendant was false and is content for the payment of damages to serve as vindication of his reputation.