

17 December 2012

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James Blunt wins News of the World phone hacking claim

The singer James Blunt has successfully settled his claim against News Group Newspapers over the hacking of his voicemail by the News of the World.

Mr Blunt was contacted by officers at Operation Weeting last year to inform him that he was a victim of phone hacking. Personal and private information relating to Mr Blunt was found in the notebook of Glenn Mulcaire, the private detective hired by the News of the World to access the voicemail of various high profile individuals. Operation Weeting's evidence also showed that Mr Mulcaire and journalists at the News of the World hacked Mr Blunt's voicemail on a number of occasions from at least 2006.

Mr Blunt has always been security conscious, in the knowledge that he was in telephone contact with serving members of the armed services who were on operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. He had even changed his voicemail PIN in 2006 and so was shocked and concerned to learn that he had been targeted by the News of the World and that his privacy had been violated.

In light of the unlawful behaviour, Mr Blunt issued proceedings against News Group Newspapers in September 2011. News Group has now finally accepted that Mr Blunt was targeted by journalists at the News of the World and by Mr Mulcaire and that they unlawfully obtained his private information, including by accessing his voicemail.

News Group has agreed to pay a substantial sum in damages to Mr Blunt together with his legal costs.

Carter-Ruck has also recently successfully settled cases for other victims of News of the World phone hacking.

For further information please contact Ruth Collard or Luke Staiano (at luke.staiano@carter-ruck.com or on 020 7353 5005).

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