

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST

BETWEEN:-

MGN LIMITED

Claimant

-and-

ROY ALFRED CHARLES RAMM

Defendant

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STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

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Solicitor for the Defendant

1. My Lord, I appear for the Complainant in this matter, Roy Ramm.
2. Mr Ramm is a former police Commander, who worked in the police force from 1970 until he left in 1996 with an exemplary record, having been awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
3. On 8 March 2018, the Mirror published an article on its website (the "Website") entitled "*Disgraced top cop behind Rachel Nickell operation reveals bizarre honeytrap link to TV show Cracker as he speaks for first time*" with the subheading "*Roy Ramm explains how he supplied the undercover officer to draw a confession out of innocent Colin Stagg in ITV documentary Rachel Nickell: The Untold Story, which airs this evening*" ("the Article"). The Article was illustrated with four photographs of Mr Ramm.
4. The Article related to an interview that Mr Ramm had recently given for a television documentary about the murder of Rachel Nickell in 1992, with which he had only been loosely associated. At the time of the murder, Mr Ramm had been the Detective Chief Superintendent running the undercover policing unit SO10, the Covert Operations Group,

and was asked by the Senior Investigating Officers working on the murder case to supply an undercover police officer according to their specified requirements. His involvement was limited to identifying a potential undercover officer and confirming her credentials, availability and willingness to take part. The police investigation into the murder later became notorious for its flawed methodology, in particular its use of the undercover officer "to draw a confession" out of an innocent (as it was later discovered) man.

5. The Article's headline and subheading falsely depicted Mr Ramm as playing a central role in and having responsibility for the police operation, and alleged that, as a consequence, he was "Disgraced". As the Mirror accepts, these allegations were and are untrue and defamatory.
6. Naturally, the publication of these false and defamatory allegations caused great distress to Mr Ramm.
7. In recognition of the falsity of the allegations made against him, MGN published a full and prominent apology on the Website, provided Mr Ramm with two private letters of apology, and agreed to join in the reading of this Statement in Open Court. Further, MGN has paid Mr Ramm a substantial amount in compensation as well as his legal costs.

Solicitor for the Publisher

8. My Lord, on behalf of MGN Limited, I confirm all that my friend has said. MGN withdraws these false allegations and apologises unreservedly to Mr Ramm.

Dated: 11 April 2019

Signed: Carter-Ruck Carter-Ruck Solicitors

Signed: Foot Anstey LLP Foot Anstey LLP