

Adam Ingram

The Sunday Times has settled a libel action brought against it by Adam Ingram, the former MP and defence minister, about an article published on November 27, 2011. The article, headlined “MP’s £100,000 gift to Gadaffi son”, reported that Mr Ingram had been non-executive chairman of a company which had paid £100,000 to Saif al-Islam Gadaffi’s foundation for a proposed donation to the London School of Economics.

In an agreed statement read out in open court on June 28 this year, Mr Ingram’s solicitor said that the article in substance alleged that Mr Ingram was responsible for making a secret £100,000 payment as a bribe to Saif Gadaffi in order corruptly to secure contracts for his company in Libya. In fact, Mr Ingram had never been a director of the business nor been involved in its management, had no knowledge of any such payment to Saif Gadaffi or to any Libyan foundation, had never met Saif Gadaffi, nor had any dealings with him or any foundation of his, had never been to Libya and never sought to bribe anyone.

The Sunday Times said that it published the company’s name and Mr Ingram’s association with it in the public interest. For the information about Mr Ingram’s involvement with the company it had relied on his entry in the parliamentary register of members’ interests, which had not been updated. The newspaper had tried to contact him for comment before publication, but Mr Ingram chose not to respond at that time. Now that he had explained his position The Sunday Times accepted that the allegation of which he had complained was not true and apologised to him. The article had been removed from the newspaper’s website and would not be republished. The Sunday Times has also paid Mr Ingram substantial damages and agreed to pay legal costs.