

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION**

**B E T W E E N : -**

**CHARLEY UCHEA**

**Claimant**

**and**

**EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS**

**Defendant**

**STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

**The Claimant's Solicitor-Advocate**

1. My Lord, in this action I represent Charley Uchea, the Claimant in this matter. My learned friend represents the Defendant. The Claimant is a British reality television celebrity and model who became famous after her appearance in 2007 in the eighth series of the Channel 4 Programme, *Big Brother*. The Defendant is the publisher of *The Daily Star*.
2. On 19 June 2007, the Defendant published on the front page of its newspaper a prominent article under the sensational headline "BIG BRUV CHARLEY'S VICE SECRET". The article continued on page 7 of the newspaper under the headline "£500-A-NIGHT CHARLEY". The article was accompanied by a number of photographs of the Claimant. The article was also published on the newspaper's website.
3. The article alleged that the Claimant was guilty of having regularly carried out a dishonest sex scam at various lap dancing clubs, including Stringfellows where she worked, which involved her falsely pretending to be a prostitute, accepting money for sex and then leaving her "clients" waiting having stolen their money. The article also alleged

that the Claimant used to habitually steal designer clothes from West End Stores.

4. In light of these very serious allegations, the Claimant's solicitors complained to the Defendant, who initially declined to apologise and withdraw the allegations. Consequently, the Claimant had no alternative but to issue legal proceedings in order to clear her name.
5. My Lord, I am pleased to say that the Defendant now accepts that the allegations complained of by the Claimant are completely untrue. The Defendant has now agreed to join in the reading of this statement and publish an agreed report in the next edition of *The Daily Star*. The Defendant has already removed the article from its website and has undertaken not to repeat the allegations complained of. The Defendant has also agreed to pay the Claimant substantial damages and her legal costs.

#### **The Defendant's Solicitor**

6. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I endorse what has been said by my friend. Express Newspapers, through me, withdraws the allegations complained of and apologises unreservedly to the Claimant for the allegations published in *The Daily Star* newspaper and is pleased to set the record straight.

#### **The Claimant's Solicitor-Advocate**

7. My Lord, with that the Claimant is content to let the matter rest and all that remains is for me to ask for your Lordship's permission to withdraw the record.

**Mark Thomson, Solicitor-Advocate for the Claimant**

**John Lisners, Solicitor for the Defendant**