

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Claim No: []

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST

BETWEEN:-

MARC WADSWORTH

Claimant

-and-

JEWISH CHRONICLE MEDIA LIMITED

Defendant

STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT

Solicitor for the Claimant

1. My Lord, I appear for the Claimant in this matter, Marc Wadsworth. Mr Wadsworth is a prominent civil rights campaigner, journalist, broadcaster, author and lecturer, who founded the Anti-Racist Alliance in 1991, and is both the founder and editor of the popular citizen journalism website, *The-Latest.com*.
2. The Defendant, Jewish Chronicle Media Limited, is the publisher of the weekly newspaper, *The Jewish Chronicle*, and its associated website, *thejc.com*.
3. On 12 March 2021, the Defendant published an article in its newspaper entitled “*Corbynites’ threat to ‘take care of’ Jewish activists*”. A version of the article, under the same headline, was also published by the Defendant on 15 March 2021 on its website.
4. The article concerned a group of Labour members, including individuals said to have been suspended or expelled from the party, alleging that they were engaged in an initiative to track down Jewish Labour activists at their private addresses in order to ‘take care of’ them – namely, to intimidate, threaten or harass them into silence – and asserting that there were reasonable grounds to suspect that such activities would be criminal.

5. The article named Mr Wadsworth in this context, as well as featuring a prominent photograph of him in its print edition, stating that Mr Wadsworth had given a speech at a launch event for the group, and in turn, alleging that he was both a member of the group and either involved or complicit in its activities.
6. As the Defendant has accepted, the allegations in the article about Mr Wadsworth were wholly untrue.
7. In fact, Mr Wadsworth, is not and has never been a member of the group to which the article referred. He neither spoke at nor attended the event in question, and has not been involved whatsoever in the group's activities.
8. In recognition of the false and seriously defamatory nature of the allegations, the Defendant has published an apology to Mr Wadsworth both on its website and in the print edition of *The Jewish Chronicle*. Further, the Defendant has agreed to pay Mr Wadsworth substantial compensation for libel, as well as his legal costs.

Solicitor/Counsel for the Defendant

9. My Lord, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm all that my friend has said. Jewish Chronicle Media Limited withdraws these false allegations and apologises to Mr Wadsworth.

Solicitor for the Claimant

10. My Lord, on that basis, I ask for leave to withdraw the record.