

ELTON JOHN AND DAVID FURNISH V NGN LIMITED
TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT IN COURT

JENNY AFIA, SOLICITOR FOR THE CLAIMANTS

My Lord, in this action I appear for the Claimants, Sir Elton John and David Furnish.

On 11 February 2018 the Sun on Sunday published a front page story, continued over a double page spread inside, captioned “ELTON’S DOG DID THIS TO MY GIRL”. A large photo of a young girl filled much of the page. The same story was published on the Sun’s website and was picked up by a number of other publishers including the Mail Online, the Metro, the Mirror and the Evening Standard.

The story described an incident at the Claimants’ home at which a young child at a play date had been subjected to a serious attack by their dog, which left her with “Freddy Krueger-like injuries” and that, despite being aware of the incident, the Claimants failed to make any attempt to find out how the little girl was.

This allegation is false.

The truth is that the injuries were not serious, and the Claimants, far from ignoring the incident, made several enquiries about the girl’s welfare to her father and nanny. Each time it was confirmed the girl was fine.

I am pleased to say that the newspaper has now accepted unequivocally that this allegation was false and seriously defamatory. As a result, it has agreed now to apologise to Sir Elton John and David Furnish, and to pay significant damages as well as to reimburse their legal costs.

JEFFREY SMELE, SOLICITOR FOR THE DEFENDANT

On behalf of the Defendant, News Group Newspapers Limited, I agree with what my friend has said.

The Defendant offers its apology to the Claimants, and is pleased that the matter has been amicably resolved.

SOLICITOR FOR THE CLAIMANTS

On that basis, and with their position having been vindicated, the Claimants are content to let the matter rest.