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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION  
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS LIST**

**BEFORE MR JUSTICE MURRAY**

**EUGENE HOPKINSON**

**Claimant**

**-and-**

**BRITISH MENSA LIMITED  
AND ITS DIRECTORS**

**Defendants**

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**STATEMENT IN OPEN COURT**

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**Adham Harker, Solicitor for the Claimant**

1. My Lord/Lady, I appear for the Claimant.
2. The Claimant is a software engineer and developer who has, for much of his adult life, been a member of the Mensa organisation for those of unusually high IQ. The First Defendant is the corporate vehicle through which Mensa operates in the United Kingdom. The Second to Tenth Defendants were its directors as at 8 November 2021.

3. The Claimant was elected to the Board of the First Defendant on 1 August 2018, and shortly thereafter appointed as the First Defendant's 'Technology Officer' with a brief to assess the First Defendant's IT processes and propose modernisation strategies. Part of the Claimant's role as Technology Officer involved him handling and/or having access to some personal data of the First Defendant's members.
4. In January 2021 the First Defendant was the target of a cyber-attack and a data leak. In the aftermath, the Claimant demanded to know what action, if any, was being taken by the First Defendant or its IT contractors. Unsatisfied with the adequacy of the response, the Claimant stood down from his position on the board.
5. In the weeks and months that followed, the First Defendant (or the Fifth Defendant on its behalf) published a series of statements on the subject, including an email of 11 June 2021 sent to the Membership, a Powerpoint presentation given by the Fifth Defendant of 4 July 2021 by Zoom to the Members and subsequently circulated to Members by email, and a Facebook post of 11 July 2021 on a Mensa group ('the Publications'). These concerned the cyber-attack and data leak and the Claimant's alleged involvement in these matters.
6. The Claimant contends that the gist of the Publications was that the Claimant was responsible for the data leak and cyberattack, had illegally transferred membership data on to his own personal server and had maliciously and deliberately attempted to harm Mensa and its membership in breach of the criminal law.
7. The Claimant contends that the allegations made against the Claimant were entirely false. They have caused him reputational damage within and beyond the extensive Mensa membership, the matter having generated some press interest. They have also caused the Claimant considerable embarrassment and distress.

8. On 5 August 2021, Brett Wilson LLP sent a Letter of Claim on the Claimant's behalf to Mensa and its directors setting out claims for libel, malicious falsehood, and breach of his rights under the UK General Data Protection Regulation. On 24 September 2021 DAC Beachcroft LLP sent a Letter of Response to Brett Wilson LLP on the Defendants' behalf, denying liability.
9. Following an exchange of correspondence between the Claimant and Defendants' respective solicitors, the Defendants made an offer of settlement under Part 36 of the Civil Procedure Rules, inter alia, agreeing to pay the Claimant damages and costs. The Claimant has accepted this offer.
10. My Lord/Lady, in the circumstances, the Claimant is prepared to let the matter rest.

**BRETT WILSON LLP**  
**Solicitors for the Claimant**

**14 December 2021**