

Claimant
Mary Winifred Gloria Hunniford
First
29 November 2017

Claim no. HC-2016-002849

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

B E T W E E N:

SIR CLIFF RICHARD, OBE

Claimant

-and-

(1) THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

(2) THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

Defendants

WITNESS STATEMENT OF MARY WINIFRED GLORIA HUNNIFORD

I, MARY WINIFRED GLORIA HUNNIFORD, OBE, of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAY as follows:-

1. I am a television and radio presenter. I have been working in these industries since the 1970s. Throughout my adult life I have gone by the name Gloria Hunniford. I first met the Claimant in 1969 and we soon became friends. He has been a very good and loyal friend of mine since then.

2. I make this statement in support of the Claimant's claim, specifically in relation to the issue of the degree of distress that the Claimant suffered in consequence of the BBC's broadcasts in August 2014 and the other effects that those broadcasts had upon him.
3. I make this statement from matters within my own knowledge or on the basis of information provided to me as indicated in this statement. Insofar as the matters set out in this statement derive from my own knowledge, they are true. Where matters are not within my personal knowledge they are true to the best of my information and belief.
4. On 14 August 2014 I heard and saw the news about what was happening at the Claimant's apartment in Sunningdale. As it happened, I was watching television at my home in Sevenoaks in Kent when the broadcasts started at 1 o'clock that day. I carried on watching for some time.
5. I could not believe what I was seeing. To discover that the police were searching my friend's apartment was of course a shock in itself, but to witness the search being carried out on television apparently in real time, with a helicopter filming overhead, together with details of the appalling criminal allegations that the police were said to be investigating, seemed beyond belief. To the best of my knowledge, I had never seen anything like it before on British television. I was immediately very concerned for the Claimant. He is a gentle and kind soul, and I was extremely worried about how he would be reacting to this extraordinary turn of events.
6. My fears were well-founded. When I spoke to the Claimant, I could tell immediately both from what he was saying and the tone of his voice that he was extremely distressed. He told me how difficult it had been for him to watch what was going on in Berkshire, but particularly the footage of the police going through his apartment. He seemed utterly distraught that the search and the allegations against him had been broadcast and publicised so widely around the world, and about what everyone must be thinking of him.

7. I was exceptionally worried for the Claimant because I had never heard him like this ever before. In my experience, he has always been the most positive and upbeat of people, but speaking to him he seemed a different person; broken and extremely confused.
8. Unfortunately, this impression persisted over the two years that followed. When I met with the Claimant during this period, I encountered a real emotional and mental change in him, and even a physical one.
9. I would say that the Claimant tried to keep things as normal as he could during this period. Accordingly, as we had done previously, we went on holidays and spent occasional weekends and days together when we could at the Claimant's home in Portugal. These events had always been extremely cheerful and enjoyable affairs, and we had had a lot of fun. By contrast, when I spent time with him in the period after the BBC's broadcasts, he was no longer his easy-going, genial self. He was clearly trying to stay positive and put on a brave face on things, but he was not quite succeeding. He expressed concern about feeling like a prisoner in his own home, fearful of going out in case he might be ambushed by a reporter or a photographer, or worse. More generally, he appeared tired and distracted. While it was still a pleasure to spend time in his company, I could tell that there were heavy burdens weighing on his mind. He had also obviously lost weight. In my view, this is not something the Claimant should have been put through, particularly at his stage of life, when his health was so likely to be adversely affected.
10. When we spoke about things during this period, he told me that he was reluctant to spend time in the UK following the broadcasts as he was acutely conscious of how many people here, who knew who he was, had been informed by the broadcasts of the criminal allegations that had been made against him. He told me he felt he had no choice but to sell his apartment in Sunningdale. To my mind, what he was saying, in short, was that he felt like he had been driven out of his home in the UK. Whenever I spoke to him, I could tell how upset and frustrated he was about this.
11. I remember hoping in the early days after the events of 14 August 2014 that the police investigation would be over as quickly as possible, but unfortunately this was not to be. The

Claimant's anger and frustration lasted for almost two years, until the CPS finally announced in June 2016 that no further action was to be taken in respect of the various allegations that had been made against him.

12. After the CPS made their announcement, the Claimant and I immediately went on a cruise leaving from the South of France for a week with some other friends. He spoke of how relieved he was, and I could tell that he was, but at the same time I could still see evidence of the toll that this extraordinarily difficult time had taken upon him. When I gave him a hug, he had lost so much weight that he felt like skin and bones.

13. I have seen the Claimant more recently, during the last few months, and it is true to say that he seems more his old self and is looking a lot better. However, he still couldn't stop talking about how violated and betrayed he felt about the BBC's decision to broadcast the police search of his apartment, and to create the media storm that had ensued. I hope that once these proceedings are over, the Claimant can put all these dreadful events behind him once and for all, and start enjoying life again without reservation.

Statement of Truth

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed ..

Mary Winifred Gloria Hunniford

Dated:

29/11/17

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
MARY WINIFRED GLORIA
HUNNIFORD**

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