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Media Law: Recent Work Archive: 2009

Tom Watson MP wins claim over email smears libel

News Group Newspapers, the publisher of the Sun, has apologised in the High Court to former Cabinet Office Minister, **Tom Watson MP**. The Sun alleged in April 2009 that Mr Watson had been a party to the Damian McBride and Derek Draper plot to smear the Conservatives and that Mr Watson had lied when he denied his involvement. The Sun has now accepted these allegations were entirely untrue and has agreed to pay substantial damages to Mr Watson.

- Mr Watson was represented by Claire Gill and Lucy Middleton.
- Press Release
- Statement in Open Court

Liam Gallagher

The Guardian has published an apology and is paying damages to **Liam Gallagher** for falsely alleging that he stormed out in the middle of the Oasis iTunes concert at the Roundhouse on 21 July and did not return. As the Guardian now accepts, Mr Gallagher only briefly left the stage whilst his brother sang two songs, as is normal during their performance. Mr Gallagher has decided to donate the damages to charity.

- Mr Gallagher is represented by Nigel Tait and Kate Pantling.
- Guardian Apology

William Van Gordon and Edo Shonin win libel damages

The Daily Mail has apologised and paid substantial damages to two Buddhist monks, **William Van Gordon** and **Edo Shonin** over an article published in the newspaper and on its website on 25 May 2007 in which it was falsely alleged that Mr Van Gordon had been brainwashed by Edo Shonin and in which they were falsely accused of running a cult.

- William Van Gordon and Edo Shonin were represented by Claire Gill.
- Apology

Liam Gallagher

The BBC and the Metro have both agreed to publish full apologies to **Liam Gallagher** for falsely alleging that he stormed off stage for half an hour during the Oasis iTunes concert at the Roundhouse on 21 July. As the BBC and Metro now accept, Mr Gallagher only briefly left the stage whilst his brother sang two songs as is normal during their performance. Both the BBC and Metro have agreed to pay Mr Gallagher's legal costs.