

27 June 2025

**Press release**

**Gibbons v Coldrick: Statement in Open Court read before Mr Justice Jay  
on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in respect of Professor Michael Gibbons, Dr Lisa  
Gibbons and Oscar Gibbons of Woodbury East Devon**

Today the parties in *Gibbons v Coldrick* [KB-2024-003001] made a joint Statement in Open Court, bringing an end to the Gibbons' claim for harassment, misuse of private information and libel.

The Defendant, Kate Coldrick, today admitted to engaging in the following acts against the Claimants:

- a. Making allegations on social media, by email, and other means to the world at large, to friends, colleagues and acquaintances, to the First Claimant's school and exam board, to the Second Claimant's workplace, and to regulators that they had committed malpractice and wrongdoing and had also colluded in malpractice and wrongdoing; in respect of the Second and Third Claimants this extended to allegations of professional misconduct;
- b. Setting up accounts under a number of false names and identities to make those allegations;
- c. Creating evidence to justify those allegations;
- d. Covertly recording the Claimants in their own home and with their family members;
- e. Instigating investigations of the Claimants and covertly recording discussions with them pertaining to those investigations. At the time, the Claimants were unaware that she had instigated them;
- f. Disclosing those recordings to third parties;

- g. Disclosing private information to third parties, including medical information, and communications from the Claimants; and
- h. Repeating allegations to the same and additional third parties, and disclosing recordings and other information after she had been informed that investigations into the First and Second Claimants had been closed.

The Defendant concealed her behaviour and deleted a number of accounts associated with her behaviour. While the Claimants have some evidence, they do not know, and will never know, the full extent of her wrongdoing.

They were hugely distressed to find that the author and instigator of the allegations was their neighbour and former friend.

The Defendant's actions have caused the Claimants grave difficulties in all aspects of their professional and personal lives, and to them as a family. It also affected the First Claimant's educational attainment and personal development. They have each suffered significant anguish and distress.

The Defendant acknowledges that these allegations should never have been made and has agreed to withdraw the allegations, never repeat them, and apologise for the severe harm that she has caused the Claimants. The Defendant has also agreed to pay the Claimants a substantial sum to compensate them for her wrongdoing.

The Claimants were represented by Megan Cox and Hariette Hall of Taylor Hampton Solicitors as well as Beth Grossman of Doughty Street Chambers.

**Taylor Hampton**

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**Claim number: KB-2024-003001**

**Annex B**

**Claim number: KB-2024-003001**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**

**KING'S BENCH DIVISION**

**MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST**

**B E T W E E N:-**

**(1) Oscar Gibbons (2) Lisa Gibbons (3) Michael Gibbons**

**Claimants**

**-and-**

**Kate Coldrick**

**Defendant**

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**Statement in Open Court**

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*DANIEL TAYLOR, SOLICITOR*  
Counsel for the Claimants

1. My Lord/Lady, in this claim, I appear for the Claimants, Oscar, Lisa and Michael Gibbons. Oscar is the son of Lisa and Michael, and has recently completed his A levels. Lisa and Michael are doctors. The Defendant was their neighbour, former friend and confidant of the second Claimant.
2. From March 2023 until November 2024 the Defendant undertook the following acts against the Claimants which she has admitted:

- a. She made allegations on social media, by email, and other means to the world at large, to friends colleagues and acquaintances, to the First Claimant's school and exam board, to the Second Claimant's workplace, and to regulators that the Claimants had committed malpractice and wrongdoing and had also colluded in malpractice and wrongdoing; in respect of the Second and Third Claimant this extended to allegations of professional misconduct;
  - b. She set up accounts under a number of false names and identities to make those allegations;
  - c. She created evidence to justify these allegations;
  - d. She recorded the Claimants covertly and in their own home and with their family members;
  - e. She instigated investigations of the Claimants and covertly recorded discussions with them pertaining to those investigations. At the time, the Claimants were unaware that the Defendant had instigated them;
  - f. She disclosed the recordings to third parties;
  - g. She disclosed private information to third parties, including medical information, and communications from the Claimants;
  - h. She repeated allegations to the same and additional third parties, and disclosed recordings and other information after she had been informed that investigations into the First and Second Claimants had been closed.
3. The Defendant concealed her behaviour and deleted a number of accounts associated with her behaviour. While the Claimants have some evidence, they do not know, and will never know, the full extent of her wrongdoing.
4. The Claimants were hugely distressed to find that the author and instigator of the allegations was their neighbour and former friend.
5. The Defendant's actions have caused the Claimants grave difficulties in all aspects of their professional and personal lives, and to them as a family. It also affected the First Claimant's educational attainment and personal development. They have each suffered very significant anguish and distress.
6. The Claimants brought claims against the Defendant in this court for harassment, misuse of private information and defamation.
7. I am pleased to announce that the Defendant has now accepted responsibility for her actions outlined above. The Defendant acknowledges that these allegations should never have been made. She has agreed to withdraw the allegations and apologise for the severe harm that she has caused. She has agreed to pay the Claimants a substantial sum to compensate them for her wrongdoing.

**Counsel for the Defendant**

9. My Lord/Lady, on behalf of the Defendant, I confirm everything my learned friend has said. The Defendant through me acknowledges that she should never have made these allegations, which she now withdraws and apologises for the harm caused. She is happy to set the record straight and undertakes to this court never to repeat them.

**Counsel for the Claimant**

10. My Lord/My Lady, under the circumstances, and in the light of the acknowledgment and undertakings given, and the payment of a substantial sum to the Claimants, the Claimants are content to let the matter rest.