

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
KING'S BENCH DIVISION
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS LIST**

Claim No: QB-2022-001873

BETWEEN:

STEPHEN BECK & ORS

-and-

THE POLICE FEDERATION OF ENGLAND AND WALES



QB-2022-001873

ORDER

BEFORE SENIOR MASTER FONTAINE

UPON the Claimants' application of 24 October 2022 for a Group Litigation Order ('GLO') under CPR 19.11

AND UPON the Claimants having issued their Claim Form on 6 December 2022

AND UPON the parties agreeing that these claims should proceed via a trial of lead claims

AND UPON hearing from Leading Counsel for the Claimants and Leading Counsel for the Defendant

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. These claims shall proceed via a trial of the lead claims.
2. The parties to the trial of the lead claims shall be the Defendant and the lead Claimants, to be agreed between the parties pursuant to paragraph 6 of this Order.
3. The requirement on the Claimants to serve Particulars of Claim under CPR 7.4(1) is varied and extended as set out in this Order.
4. Prior to the selection of Lead Claimants pursuant to paragraph and 6 below and the filing and service of pleadings pursuant to paragraphs 7-9 below:
 - (i) The Claimants shall by 4pm on 31 March 2023 write a letter requesting information and/or documents the Claimants say they require from the Defendant to be able to plead their case;

- (ii) The Defendant shall by 4pm on 12 May 2023 write a letter in response providing such information and/or documents as they are able and willing to provide and explaining any refusal or inability to provide such information or documents requested by that date;
 - (iii) If so advised, the Claimants shall make an application for the information and/or documents requested by 4pm on 9 June 2023;
 - (iv) In the event that such an application is made, further directions to be set at the hearing of that application.
5. Following the completion of the steps set out in paragraph 4 and in any event by 4pm on 16 June 2023, the Claimants shall provide the Defendant with their Draft Generic Particulars of Claim in order to assist the parties in selecting and reaching agreement on the Lead Claimants.
 6. Following the completion of the steps set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 and in any event by 14 July 2023, the parties shall agree on the Lead Claimants.
 7. Subject to the completion of the steps set out in paragraphs 5 and 6, the Claimants shall by 10 November 2023 file and serve Generic Particulars of Claim and individual Particulars of Claim for each of the identified lead Claimants. In relation to those lead Claimants who are bringing claims for personal injury, the individual Particulars of Claim shall be served with preliminary schedules of loss and expert medical reports.
 8. The Defendant shall file and serve Defences to the Generic Particulars of Claim and individual Particulars of Claim by 4pm on the date two months after the service of the Generic Particulars of Claim.
 9. The Claimants shall file and serve any Generic Reply and/or individual Replies to the Defence(s) within 28 days of receipt of the Defence(s).
 10. A costs and case management conference ('CCMC') shall be listed for two days on or after 1 March 2024. The CCMC shall address:
 - a. Any unresolved issues as to disclosure;
 - b. Provision for further expert evidence, if any;
 - c. Any other directions required for the trial of the lead claims;
 - d. Costs budgeting.
 11. Save for the claims by the Lead Claimants addressed by this Order, any other claims that have been or are issued against the Defendant arising from the same data breach incidents on which the Claimants' claims are based shall be stayed pending the final determination of the lead claims.
 12. The GLO Application is dismissed.

13. The parties shall use their best endeavours to agree a protocol for the protection of confidential documents, consistent with the Order of Master Cook dated 16 June 2022 and as varied by Master Cook on 28 August 2022.
14. The protocol provided for in paragraph 14 above must be agreed no later than 14 April 2023 and in any event prior to any disclosure to be made by the Defendant pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Order. Should the protocol not be agreed by 14 April 2023, the parties must provide an explanation to the court and provide an amended date for the protocol to be agreed.
15. The Claimant shall pay 50% of the Defendant's costs attributable to the GLO Application, excluding the costs of the hearing on 13 March 2023, to be assessed if not agreed. The Claimants are to make an interim payment on account of costs in the sum of £50,000 by 14 April 2023. The remaining costs of the GLO Application, including the costs of the hearing, are costs in the case.

Dated 29 March 2023