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BY FAX AND BY POST: 00353 1812 1213

Our Ref: RA/CS/H190/05

5 February 2010

Dear Sirs

SIR STELIOS HAJI-IOANNOU

We act for Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou ('Sir Stelios') and write with reference to an advert bearing the heading '*Why won't easyJet publish their on-time stats??*' ('the Advert') which was caused to be published in The Daily Telegraph and The Guardian in recent weeks, most recently on 3 February.

The Advert features a photograph of our client which has been doctored to elongate his nose in the style of the children's character Pinocchio, who is known in the public's mind for the trait that his nose grows when he tells a lie. This photograph features a speech bubble in which the words "*Punctuality is a top priority*" are attributed to our client (cited via the easyJet website) and bears the caption "*easyJet – Mr. Late again*".

The Advert then states:

- *easyJet websites claims [sic] "punctuality... is a top priority"*
- *easyJet hasn't published their on-time stats for 37 weeks*
- *Is it because Ryanair is Europe's No.1 on-time airline?*

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- *Or Because Ryanair is more on-time every week since 2003*

The Advert goes on to state "*Ryanair calls on Stelios and easyJet to stop hiding the truth about its delays and resume publishing weekly details of their on-time stats*".

We shall refer to the entire advert and its context.

Your Advert means and would be understood by the public to mean:

1. that our client is a liar, and
2. that he is complicit in (what is alleged to be) the suppression of easyJet's on-time data to 'hide the truth' about easyJet's 'delays'.

Such allegations are utterly baseless and grossly defamatory of our client.

As you are aware, our client is a non-executive director of and a minority shareholder in easyJet Plc, a company listed on the London Stock Exchange.

In those circumstances, our client is not involved in the publication (or not) of such statistics as those referred to in the Advert and was not involved in (or aware of) any decision to cease such publication. Judging from the position such statistics appear on the Ryanair website, the decision to include or otherwise of such information on such a large website as www.easyJet.com, clearly falls outside the job description of a non-executive director, let alone a shareholder.

Given the above, how on earth can our client be a liar or complicit in anything?

The publication of this Advert to a vast audience has caused ongoing and escalating damage to our client's reputation. Indeed, the Advert seems to have been published with a clear intent to cause harm to our client's reputation and business interests. In the circumstances our client requires your agreement by 6pm on Friday 12 February to the following relief:

1. Your agreement to enter into a joint Statement in Open Court apologising to our client for the publication of these libels and withdrawing such allegations.



2. The publication of an apology in wording and design to be agreed in advance with our client in the form of an advertisement in each of the publications in which the Advert was published by you.
3. The provision of an undertaking not to republish or cause to be republished the words complained of or similar words defamatory of our client.
4. Your agreement to compensate our client by way of damages.
5. Your agreement to reimburse our client the costs incurred in bringing this complaint.

Our client's attitude to damages to which he is entitled will be very much determined by the speed and the sincerity of the apology and withdrawal of the offending material. Should you fail to agree to these remedies we reserve our client's right to issue proceedings in libel without further notice to you.

In any event, please give us your immediate undertaking that you will not republish or cause to be republished the Advert in the intervening period. Should that undertaking be given out of hours over the weekend (as is required) then please send it to rachel.atkins@schillings.co.uk and chris.scott@schillings.co.uk.

We await your response as a matter of urgency and reserve our client's rights fully in the meantime.

Yours faithfully


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