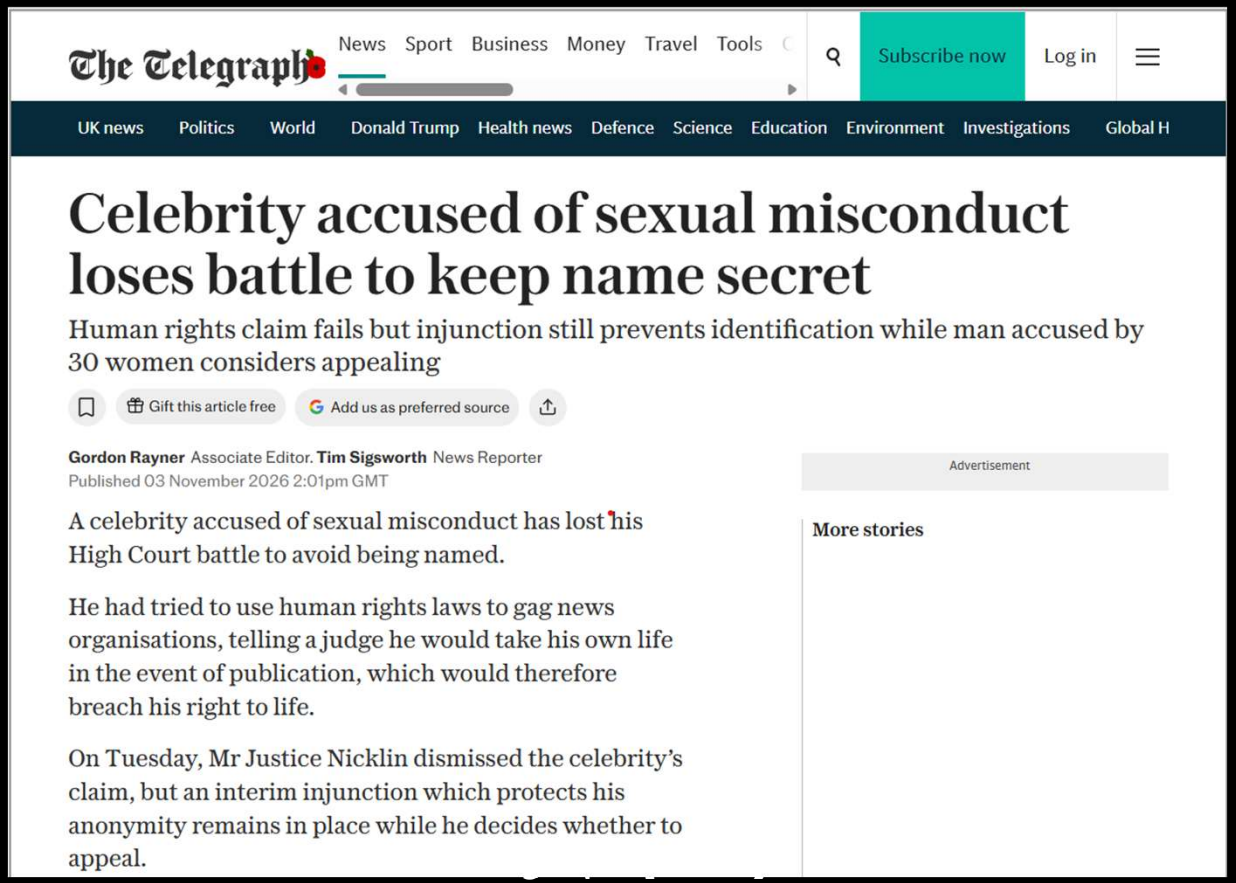
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Celebrity accused of sexual misconduct loses battle to keep name secret

Human rights claim fails but injunction still prevents identification while man accused by 30 women considers appealing

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Gordon Rayner Associate Editor. **Tim Sigsworth** News Reporter
Published 03 November 2026 2:01pm GMT

A celebrity accused of sexual misconduct has lost his High Court battle to avoid being named.

He had tried to use human rights laws to gag news organisations, telling a judge he would take his own life in the event of publication, which would therefore breach his right to life.

On Tuesday, Mr Justice Nicklin dismissed the celebrity's claim, but an interim injunction which protects his anonymity remains in place while he decides whether to appeal.

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"*There is no general obligation on the state to prevent a person committing suicide, even if the authorities know or ought to know 'of a real and immediate risk that she will do so.*"

PPT v Independent News and Guardian **[2026] EWHC 2818 (KB)**

Citing ***Rabone –v- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust*** **[2012] 2 AC 72**

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"*The Claimant accepts that the proposed publications concern allegations of wrongdoing rather than information which he alleges to be private.*"

PPT v Independent News and Guardian **[2026] EWHC 2818 (KB) at [293]**

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"*The true doctrine is, that there is no confidence as to the disclosure of iniquity. You cannot make me the confidant of a crime or a fraud, and be entitled to close up my lips upon any secret which you have the audacity to disclose to me relating to any fraudulent intention on your part: such a confidence cannot exist.*"

Gartside v Outram **(1856) 26 L.J. Ch. 113**

Lord Browne of Madingley v Associated Newspapers Ltd **[2008] QB 103**

ZXC v Bloomberg [2022] A.C. 1158

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"autonomy"

"psychological integrity"

"the rationale for such a starting point is that publication of such information ordinarily causes damage to the person's reputation together with harm to multiple aspects of the person's physical and social identity such as the right to personal development, and the right to establish and develop relationships with other human beings and the outside world, all of which are protected by article 8 of the ECHR"

ZXC at [81]

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***Mullen v Lyles* [2025] EWHC 645 (KB)**

"a communication about criminal conduct could, depending on the circumstances and features of the case, be the subject of a viable claim for MPI."

***Per* Fordham J at [42]**

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WFZ v BBC [2023] EWHC 1618 (KB)

"But the present case does not concern sexual wrongdoing. It concerns *contested* allegations of sexual wrongdoing, and the fact that they are being investigated by the police following the Claimant's arrest on *suspicion* of sexual wrongdoing."

***Per* Collins Rice J at [82]**

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Reasonable expectation of privacy in allegations of wrongdoing: where have we reached?

- If the allegation is *true*, doubtful that claim will be viable.
- If the allegation is *false*, is this really a claim for defamation?
- Fancy a trip to the Supreme Court?

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Feldman v Gambling Commission [2026] EWHC 76 (KB)

- Claimants were part of a bid to take charge of 888, a publicly listed company.
- Had formerly been involved in a company which had been the subject of a criminal investigation.
- Claimants alleged that the Defendant's publications had implied they were under regulatory investigation (pursuant to s. 116 of the Gambling Act 2005).
- Judge found announcements did not refer to any such investigation into the Claimants (as opposed to the investigation into 888).
- '*Questionable'* whether s. 116 review could be seen as analogous to the kind of investigation under consideration in *Sicri* and *ZXC*.
- Given what was already in the public domain about the background Claimants cannot have had reasonable expectation that their involvement would be kept private.
- Permission to appeal granted: *'The scope of that principle* [in ZXC v Bloomberg] is a matter of general importance'.

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