

Exhibit ref.

1st Statement *of the* Defendant
Miss Irene Sara Spalletti

Case ref: M00ED350

IN THE COUNTY COURT AT EDMONTON

IN THE TRUSTS OF LAND AND
APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES ACT 1996

BETWEEN:

Mr Alexander Michael Luke Wolf Walker

Claimant

– and –

Miss Irene Sara Spalletti

Defendant

Family Law Act proceedings

*Exhibited in response to para. 30/d
of the Claimant's 1st Statement*

d. compensation for my alleged behaviour to both her and her family.

3.5 The impact of this incident on my health, safety and wellbeing:

- (1) The respondent's behaviour and actions towards me have left me feeling frightened and, on multiple occasions when my family have wanted to come to visit and support me, he has explicitly threatened to ruin their lives.
- (2) I am frightened for the lives and safety of my cats after the respondent's threats towards them, as well as having me fearing for my own.
- (3) I am unable to sleep in my bedroom; instead I sleep on the sofa, which is downstairs and not far from the front door, in order to ensure that I am on alert if he, one of his family members, or friends attempt to enter the property.
- (4) I am terrified and paranoid in my own home; I am constantly checking the windows and the doorbell camera to make sure the respondent isn't approaching the property.
- (5) The respondent's behaviour is still having repercussions on my health and on that of my friends and my family; we are unable to sleep from worry, and are in a constant state of anxiety.
- (6) As a result of his behaviour, I am still experiencing physical reactions to stress such as eczema and hair loss.
- (7) I am left incredibly scared of what the respondent may try to do next, and am still concerned about what he may attempt to do in the future.
- (8) I am terrified of the potential retaliation he might subject me to for reporting him to the police, and I constantly fear that he has made additional serious and false counter-allegations against me.
- (9) Due to the respondent's financially-controlling behaviour and not reimbursing me for the shared household items, which were all purchased using all my savings, the respondent has left me without any financial security and in a vulnerable position
- (10) I can barely afford to put a heavy duty barrel bolt to the front door or a deadlock night latch on my office and bedroom doors, and I cannot afford to replace the front door and add security to the windows; he still has keys to the house, and his behaviour has left me in fear of leaving the property as I cannot afford the means to stop him entering in my absence.

4.4 The impact of these incidents on my health, safety and wellbeing:

- (1) The respondent had taken away the safe space I had created and felt secure in for six years. He had ingrained a pervasive sense of fear in my home, filling it with anger, assaults, and domination. The respondent's actions left me feeling extremely scared and unsafe.
- (2) I lived in constant fear and panic, feeling like I was walking on eggshells. I barely spoke or made any sound, overwhelmed by the pervasive sense of dread.
- (3) The respondent's insults caused me immense agony. He told me to "go kill myself" twice, and was using extremely degrading and humiliating language towards me.
- (4) I realised something was seriously wrong with him when the gaslighting became completely disconnected from the actual events.
- (5) The respondent tried to make me doubt my own sanity, but my past experiences with abuse had built resilience and self-confidence in my mental health, preventing him from succeeding. Since the gaslighting and accusations were completely unfounded, I knew he was fabricating everything.
- (6) What was meant to be a joyful moment for us—our plan to buy a house together—turned into one of the worst experiences I have ever had. I felt trapped by the belief that "I had made my bed and had to lie in it," thinking I wasn't allowed to complain since I had chosen to stay.
- (7) Because I couldn't lie about my feelings, I was unable to confide in my friends back home without risking their disdain for him. This led to further isolation as I avoided calls from friends, feeling embarrassed and ashamed. I eventually had to admit to both our mothers that I was a victim of his abuse, a revelation that also left me feeling vulnerable and reluctant to let my friends know.
- (8) By that point, I had been clean from cocaine for over a year, but his actions eventually drove me to use it occasionally as a coping mechanism. In the past, cocaine had been a way to manage my emotions and numb the pain due to my undiagnosed mental health issues and lack of appropriate treatment.
- (9) The respondent's intimidating and threatening behaviour caused extreme anxiety, resulting in sleeping and eating disorders, depression, and even suicidal thoughts. His behaviour also had a physical impact, worsening my fibromyalgia and chronic illnesses.

5.5 The impact of these incidents on my health, safety and wellbeing:

- (1) The respondent's actions left me terrified for my life due to his severe and unpredictable violence when enraged. His behaviour consistently placed me in a state of fear and anxiety, significantly affecting my mental and physical health.
- (2) As the respondent began to be physically violent and abusive towards me, I lived in constant apprehension about how severe his actions would become and how far he would go, more often than not, convinced that it would only stop once he had killed me.
- (3) I truly believed my life was at risk. I made a will and went to my friends to inform them face-to-face about what to do in the event the respondent would have seriously harmed me. I also told them where to find the evidence I had recorded of the incidents.
- (4) The respondent had hurt my cat and would constantly use them as weapons to force me into compliance with his demands. He repeatedly threatened to let them loose or put them onto the North Circular.
- (5) I was constantly punished or had to follow his rules, and I was living in a state of perpetual fear of punishment.
- (6) The respondent abuse was incessant, unrelentingly creating in me and my family anxiety, fear, and terror and driven by a desire to crumble me psychologically and destroy me.
- (7) The respondent would relentlessly intimidate me and threaten to cause psychological pain to my parents.
- (8) The respondent would refuse to let my parents visit us and would hardly agree to social commitments with my friends, despite constantly going out on his own.
- (9) I felt unable to speak with my friends and family while the respondent was in the house, and this gradually affected my communication with them altogether. I had to protect them from knowing the extent of the abuse I was enduring. I started feeling incapable of participating in activities and became increasingly socially isolated.
- (10) The respondent's behaviour also affected my friend's sleep and well-being. They would wake up in the middle of the night, panicked, to check on me.
- (11) Due to the respondent's behaviour and the constant fear for my safety, I often had to move out and stay with friends for consecutive nights.
- (12) I was frightened at any time of the day or night. I no longer knew how to be or what to do; every action I took required me to constantly assess how much anger it might provoke in the respondent.
- (13) The respondent's emotional and psychological harms included anxiety and depression, sleeping and eating disorders.
- (14) Feeling as though I had abandoned the world around me and not wanting to rely on others or drag them down with me, I experienced a deep sense of loneliness and low self-worth. Whenever I found the strength to resist the respondent's abuse and not let it destroy my spirit, he would quickly crush all my efforts. This struggle occasionally led me to use

cocaine to artificially boost my dopamine and serotonin levels in a desperate attempt to find motivation to survive and exist.

- (15) I was constantly hiding my belongings, including my keys, laptop, and phone, as these were the first objects he would violently take from me and throw either at me or at the walls.
- (16) The respondent would threaten to deprive me of access to the house Wi-Fi.
- (17) My financial independence was severely restricted, even though it was my money. The respondent constantly monitored and tried to impose regulations on how I could spend it. He made comments about even small purchases, like £3 items from Vinted, and I had to hide low-cost parcels to avoid his scrutiny (**see Exhibit n° ISS-19**).

5.6 **Witnesses** and people I have told about the incident:

- (1) Jane Dodson Walker - the respondent's mum
- (2) The respondent's best friends - Robbie Myerson and his wife Ziba Goddard
- (3) Sabina Begum - friend of mine at the time
- (4) Manuele Rosario Pennisi - one of my closest friends
- (5) Claudia Crosio Leonardi Stebbins - one of my closest friends
- (6) My parents - I shared most of my experiences with my parents, although I restricted some of the more severe details to protect them from worry.
- (7) Dr. John Helps - Specialist in Sexual Trauma Clinical Psychologist, St Mary's Hospital
- (8) Olena Baeva - Couple therapist at Leone Centre
- (9) GP Dr. Saima Shah - Half Penny Steps Health Centre GP Practice, W10

6.3 The impact of these incidents on my health, safety and wellbeing:

- (1) I was unable to engage in activities I once enjoyed and became increasingly socially isolated. My sleep was severely disrupted, leading to insomnia with periods of either barely sleeping or oversleeping, which greatly exacerbated my overall distress.
- (2) As the respondent became physically violent and abusive towards me, I lived in constant fear of how severe his actions might become. I was frequently terrified that his violence would only end with my death.
- (3) I lived in constant fear for my life and took measures to protect myself, such as hiding my car keys, home keys, laptop, and phone before he could find them. Additionally, I was forced to leave the house and stay with friends because I no longer felt safe at home.
- (4) Under the respondent's constant control, I was frequently punished and had to adhere to his strict rules. This relentless fear of punishment created a pervasive anxiety. I was constantly worried he would act on his threats, and that he might harm my cats, my parents, or dispose of my furniture and personal belongings whenever I left the house, which made me afraid to leave home.
- (5) The situation had serious repercussions on my parents' health and well-being, adding to my stress.
- (6) The respondent's attempts to undermine my future were particularly devastating. He actively tried to prevent me from returning to my studies, dismissing it as an excuse to procrastinate, and obstructed my efforts to apply for minimum wage jobs in my new field of study.
- (7) The respondent systematically sabotaged my career prospects and academic goals, leaving me feeling trapped and powerless. He never inquired about the university open day, showed no reaction, and completely ignored me when I told him I had been accepted into the course.
- (8) The respondent exploited my anxieties and beliefs, abusing his position of trust. This manipulation included insulting and belittling me in front of others, engaging in gaslighting, and making me the target of ridicule. His actions included kicking me in my sleep, throwing objects at me, and threatening to do so, all of which contributed to my constant fear and anxiety.
- (9) This situation led me to live curled up in a foetal position under the duvet whenever I heard the respondent in the house, overwhelmed by fear and anxiety.

Your ref: RGC/000151100

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To: Dean Spencer
Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)
By email: dean.spencer@sra.org.uk

18 April 2025

Impact statement to outline the emotional, financial, and psychological consequences of Ms Sarah Walker's actions

Dear Mr Spencer,

I believe I have now included everything you may need. I am extremely exhausted, so there may be some errors, for which I apologise in advance. I've done my absolute best to organise the large volume of documents, evidence, and correspondence for your review. If you require any further clarification, additional information, or explanation regarding any part of the file, I will do everything I can to provide it.

I've spent every single day since the proceedings began working on my defence against Ms Walker and her client. I don't wish to overstep, but I feel compelled to communicate just how profoundly Ms Walker's actions—and what I believe to be her abuse of power—have impacted my wellbeing and health. The consequences have been so serious that, at times, I have felt pushed to such extreme despair that I considered ending my life just to make it all stop.

My former partner was arrested on 2nd September 2024 and is still under investigation for various charges including but not limited to controlling and coercive behaviour, domestic abuse, financial control, harassment. Following this, the judge granted me sole occupation of the property for 12 months, up to 25th October 2025, to give me time to recover from the trauma, resume my studies, and rebuild my life with the goal of becoming financially and socially stable again.

Instead, since that arrest, my life has become increasingly unbearable—largely due to Ms Walker's relentless legal pressure and disregard for my situation. I receive £393 per month in Universal Credit, while my outgoings related to the property are nearly £1,800 per month. I could never afford legal representation and have had no choice but to face Ms Walker's actions alone, day after day.

Mr Spencer, this has taken everything out of me. My mental health has severely deteriorated from the constant battle—having to teach myself legal processes, gather and present evidence, and repeatedly defend myself against accusations I knew to be baseless. The emotional toll is unimaginable.

Ms Walker's conduct has, in my view, amounted to a continuation of the same type of coercive control I escaped. For someone who has just found the courage to speak out and begin healing from domestic abuse, the experience of being dragged into this kind of relentless legal pressure should never be allowed to happen. It is retraumatising, unjust, and, I believe, an abuse of her position as an officer of the court.

I do not know whether Ms Walker's withdrawal from the case is connected to any action taken by the SRA. If it is, I struggle to find the words to thank you. I genuinely don't know how much more I could have endured. It is my sincerest hope that she will be held fully accountable for her actions and prevented from ever treating another person—especially a vulnerable survivor of domestic abuse—in this way again. The damage she has caused is not just legal or financial. It's personal. Deep. And long-lasting.

I was granted 12 months to rebuild my life, but that time has been stolen from me by this ongoing legal battle. Instead of healing, I have been forced to relive trauma, defend myself without legal support or resources, and live in a constant state of fear and isolation. I truly don't know if I will ever fully recover from the impact this has had on my mental health, my life, and my future.

My ex-partner took everything—my money, my friends, my peace of mind. I have no family here, no job, and I now depend on family support abroad to pay the mortgage. I am in debt because I was forced to instruct a solicitor, only for Ms Walker to ignore every attempt at communication and proceed directly to court in violation of pre-action protocols. Her strategy left me buried under legal stress. I had no means, no strength, and no guidance to face.

Please don't hesitate to reach out. I'd be more than happy to assist with any gaps or questions you might have and once again, thank you for giving this the serious attention it deserves.

Kind regards,



Irene Spalletti