

Cover Note for Publication
(pursuant to CPR 81.8(8) and paragraph 13 of Practice Direction (Committal for Contempt: Open Court) [2015] 1 WLR 2195)

Barclays Bank v (1) Scott Dylan (2) David Antrobus and (3) Jack Mason
Case no: BL-2021-001939, BL-2021-002082

On 30 October 2024 Mr Justice Rajah imposed a sanction for contempt of court in respect of each of Scott Dylan, David Antrobus and Jack Mason of 22 months imprisonment. Mr Dylan was taken into custody. Mr Antrobus and Mr Mason did not attend court for sentencing as required to do by a previous court order. They were sentenced in their absence and warrants of committal have been issued for their arrest and transmission to prison.

The Court has also made costs orders against Mr Dylan, Mr Antrobus and Mr Mason requiring them to pay the Claimant's costs to be assessed on the indemnity basis if not agreed (limited in Mr Dylan's case to the date when he admitted the contempts) and ordered a payment on account of 60%.

The background

On 31 July 2024 Mr Justice Rajah found David Antrobus and Jack Mason to have committed several contempts of court. Scott Dylan admitted being in contempt of court. The judgment of 31 July 2024 is reported as *Barclays Bank v Dylan, Antrobus and Mason* [2024] EWHC 1994 (Ch), and is available from the judicial press office and the National Archives.

On 18 November 2021 Barclays Bank PLC commenced two connected sets of proceedings against a number of parties including Scott Dylan, David Antrobus, Jack Mason, Fresh Thinking Group Ltd and Inc Travel Group Ltd. In those proceedings Barclays alleges that there was an unlawful conspiracy to take advantage of automated decision making at Barclays to make unauthorised borrowings through group companies which were paid away. It claims loss of at least £13,734,716.57. Barclays applied for and obtained a number of freezing orders against Scott Dylan, David Antrobus, Jack Mason, Fresh Thinking Group Ltd and Inc Travel Group Ltd prohibiting them from disposing of, dealing with or diminishing the value of any assets within England and Wales up to the value of £13,734,716.57.

On 23 March 2022, virtually an entire group of approximately 60 companies ultimately owned and controlled by Scott Dylan, David Antrobus, Jack Mason was transferred to two companies in the British Virgin Islands, without notice to Barclays Bank PLC.

On 2 July 2024 Mr Dylan admitted that he had breached the freezing orders in the role he played in that transfer. After a nine day trial the judge found that the transfer of the group out of the jurisdiction had been a joint enterprise by all three respondents and that Mr Antrobus and Mr Mason had also breached the freezing orders. Sentencing was adjourned to 30 October 2024.