

BekiLeaks... and I'm not only victim, says Coleen

by JESS GLASS

REBEKAH VARDY was accused of being a 'leaker of others' private information' at a preliminary hearing in her 'Wagatha Christie' libel battle with Coleen Rooney.

The model uses her agent Caroline Watt as a go-between so she won't be seen to be blabbing to the Press, said lawyers for her fellow footballer's wife.

Mrs Rooney, who accuses Mrs Vardy of leaking 'false stories' about her, asked the High Court yesterday to order that The Sun must disclose messages between the Wag, the agent and its journalists.

And her lawyers said this should include communications relating to other famous names whose privacy was breached. They said it was part of Mrs Rooney's case to show that Mrs Vardy had an 'established practice and history of leaking private information about others, in particular to The Sun'.

Mrs Justice Steyn granted the request for disclosure by The Sun - but said it should only apply to messages between Mrs Vardy, Ms Watt and journalist



Andrew Halls. The judge said Mr Halls wrote one of the 'so-called sting articles' central to the libel dispute, so disclosure was necessary and proportionate.

The two rivals have run up vast legal bills in the case, to be settled by a trial due to start next month.

The dispute began in 2019 when Mrs Rooney, wife of ex-England star Wayne, revealed that someone had been leaking information she shared with friends and family on private social media accounts.

She said she planted made-up stories in a sting to catch the culprit, and finished by saying: 'It's Rebekah Vardy's account!'

Mrs Vardy, who is married to Leicester City striker Jamie, hotly denied the accusations and sued Mrs Rooney for libel.

Mrs Rooney's barrister David Sherborne said Mrs Vardy denied providing private information, but messages showed that she was using Ms Watt as a 'fall guy'. He said there was a 'pattern' of discussions between the pair about other people's information 'that then finds its way into



'Sting operation': Coleen Rooney PICTURE: SPLASH

the Sun'. Hugh Tomlinson QC, for Mrs Vardy, said she was 'critically neutral' on the request for documents, telling the court: 'Rebekah Vardy has nothing to hide.'

Mrs Rooney, seen out and about wearing an air boot this week after breaking a bone in her foot, is said to have run up a £250,000 bill so far in the case after being ordered to pay a chunk of Mrs Vardy's legal fees.

The hearing continues.

METRO BITES

■ A MOTORIST in his 40s lay dead in his black Astra car for a week after a crash on the M40 on April 5. The car was found in trees on the central reservation, north of Banbury. Police are appealing for witnesses.

■ A 103-year-old was given the gift of hearing for his birthday after having a cochlear implant at The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough. Leslie Hodgson said: 'Next year I want stem cell treatment for my eyes.'

■ A HOTEL on the world's shortest street has gone on sale after being run by the same family since 1955. Mackays in Wick, Caithness, is the only address in Ebenezer Place - at 6ft 9in, a Guinness record holder.

Killer cop chooses to face jury for sex offences trial

SARAH EVERARD'S murderer Wayne Couzens has requested a jury trial to face four charges of indecent exposure.

The 49-year-old is accused of the alleged offences in Swanley, Kent, in January and February last year, when he was a serving Metropolitan Police officer.

He appeared yesterday at Westminster magistrates' court, where he gave no indication of a plea but requested a crown court trial. Wearing a grey prison-issue tracksuit and sporting a long beard, Couzens appeared via videolink from Frankland prison in Durham.

After reading out the charges, under the Sexual Offences Act, chief magistrate Paul Goldspring



Trial: Sarah Everard's killer Wayne Couzens is accused of four counts of indecent exposure PA

told him: 'As is your right, you have elected crown court trial.'

He was remanded in custody and is due at the Old Bailey on May 11.

Couzens is currently serving a whole-life sentence for the kidnap, rape and murder of 33-year-old Ms Everard in March last year.

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