# Rebekah Vardy faces detailed legal costs hearing after Wagatha Christie trial



Rebekah Vardy is poised to learn the full extent of her financial obligations to Coleen Rooney as a detailed assessment of legal costs is scheduled to begin at the Royal Courts of Justice in London. This development follows their highly publicised libel case, often referred to as the "Wagatha Christie" trial, which captivated audiences due to its celebrity links.

The hearings are set to commence on Tuesday, with the focus on determining the total amount Vardy must pay after losing against Rooney last year. Mrs Rooney, married to former England striker Wayne Rooney, reportedly accrued legal expenses exceeding £1.8 million in her successful defence against Vardy’s claim, which she initiated in 2022.

The origins of this dispute date back to 2019 when Rooney publicly accused Vardy of leaking private information about her to the press via social media. This accusation was later found to be “substantially true” by Mrs Justice Steyn, who adjudicated the case. In the landmark ruling, she ordered Vardy to cover 90% of Rooney's legal costs, initially setting the amount at £800,000.

The forthcoming hearing, presided over by Costs Judge Mark Whalan, could unfold over the span of nine days. During an earlier court session in October, Vardy’s legal team contested the total claimed by Rooney, which amounted to £1,833,906.89. Jamie Carpenter KC, representing Vardy, characterised the costs as having a “‘kitchen sink’ approach,” and challenged the legitimacy of over £120,000 worth of expenses, alleging that these included extravagant expenditures such as stays at high-end hotels and excessive meal charges.

In response, Robin Dunne, acting on behalf of Rooney, countered these claims by explaining that the hotel stay in question at Nobu was not originally booked by their solicitor but was instead a necessity due to issues experienced at a more modest accommodation. According to Dunne, minor minibar charges included just two bottles of water, contradicting notions of lavish expenditures.

Dunne further asserted that it is inappropriate for Vardy to label Rooney's incurred costs as unreasonable, given that many were a direct consequence of Vardy's actions throughout the legal proceedings.

The conflict reached its apex in October 2019, when Rooney made a viral social media post claiming a protracted “sting operation” against Vardy. She alleged that Vardy’s account was the source behind several stories published by The Sun, which included fabricated claims about Rooney’s private life, such as a trip to Mexico for a “gender selection” procedure and a supposed home flooding incident.

Ultimately, Mrs Justice Steyn ruled in favour of Rooney, determining that it was "likely" Vardy’s agent, Caroline Watt, had supplied information to The Sun, and that Vardy was complicit, having "actively" engaged in such behaviour.

As the costs hearing approaches, all eyes will be on the courtroom to see how the legal drama continues to unfold between the two high-profile figures.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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