



So what REALLY went wrong for Lineker and his lingerie model?

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Warning to staff after landmark ruling on use of social media

BOSSSES FREE TO SPY ON EMAILS

By Katherine Rushton
Media and Technology Editor

BOSSSES were yesterday given the right to spy on staff emails.

In a landmark ruling, the European Court of Human Rights granted them full access to personal messages sent from company computers or smartphones.

The decision came in the case of an engineer sacked for using a social media site while at work. Legal experts warned staff should now assume all their online activity is monitored.

'This ruling related to personal use of company systems, so we are potentially looking at Facebook and other social media,' said Claire Dawson of the law firm Slater and Gordon.

'Employees should be aware that if they have a company device, their employer may give themselves the right to monitor it, including outside of work hours.'

Many firms routinely check staff emails and track the websites they visit - usually to protect commercial information or stop workers trawling pornography sites.

Bosses might also be looking for signs that staff are planning to leave. This is all legal as long as employees are warned in writing, generally in their contracts.

But it is feared unscrupulous firms will exploit yesterday's ruling to step up their spying.

Alex Bearman, an employment law specialist at Russell-Cooke, said: 'The safest course of action for employees is to avoid using these sorts of messaging platforms on work devices because who knows if your bosses are watching.'

Frances O'Grady, general secretary of the TUC, insisted staff had a right to privacy in the workplace. 'Big Brother bosses do not get the best out of employees,' she added. 'Staff who are



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£33m on the lotto ... now we can trade in our old Fiesta!

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