

Liar's false rape claims

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Tracy Brooks had made three earlier false allegations without ever being charged or prosecuted.

But she invented two more bogus tales of being raped by friends.

And by the time police confirmed the suspects were both blameless, each had spent more than five hours in custody and had the horrific accusation hanging over their heads for weeks.

Brooks, a voluntary care worker of Northumbrian Way, North Shields, admitted two charges of perverting justice on July 31 and August 30 last year.

But Newcastle Crown Court heard the troubled 26-year-old suffered a psychiatric illness as well as a drinking disorder. And Judge David Hodson said the background meant he could spare her an immediate prison sentence.

He told tearful Brooks: “The effect of your false complaints was that two men were arrested and detained in custody.

“They had to provide intimate samples and were subjected to a substantial degree of humiliation and a colossal amount of anxiety and worry that they were being charged with an offence that could have resulted in a very long sentence of imprisonment.

“I’m sure the two men would expect you to receive an immediate sentence of imprisonment.”

But Judge Hodson read detailed psychiatric and probation reports on Brooks, highlighting improvements since she began to tackle her heavy drinking.

He told her: "I take the view it would be counter productive in the light of your more stable life.

"You must understand you have escaped immediate custody by a hair's breadth."

Brooks was given a 32 week prison sentence suspended for two years with supervision and a three month electronically tagged curfew.

She complained to a mental health worker on July 31 last year she had been raped by a friend when she stayed the night at his home

She repeated her lie during a video interview with police and was examined by a doctor. Only weeks later, Brooks claimed another friend had raped her at her own home.

Both men were arrested and questioned.

Gavin Doig, defending, said Brooks had telephoned wanting to withdraw the rape claims before forensic evidence exposed her lies.

He told the court: "Its obvious she feels the regret and shame very deeply."

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/liars-false-rape-claims-1467591>