

Fury over false rape claims

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A DAD whose son was grilled for five hours over a bogus rape accusation has hit out at police.

His son was one of two Sunderland 22-year-olds questioned by detectives after an allegation of sexual assault by two teenage girls after a boozy night out in Durham City.

One of the girls, believed to be 15, claimed she was raped after the pair, who had been drinking in bars and pubs on North Road, went with the men to a public park near to the railway station.

Almost a fortnight after the alleged incident police released CCTV images and detailed descriptions of the two men they wanted to speak to, which appeared in newspapers and on TV across the North East.

But that sparked a nightmare time for the families of the innocent Wearside men linked with the incident, who went to police after seeing the appeal for information.

“We were getting phone calls saying: ‘You’re son’s a rapist’,” one of the men’s dads told the Echo.

“But they were never even charged. They were just taken in for questioning.” He said they were unaware of the girls’ ages and it was the Durham teenagers who chatted them up and took them to the park.

Afterwards the case was closed with no court action taken, but the irate dad is unhappy with how it was handled from the start.

“If they had questioned the girls hard like they did the lads it wouldn’t have gone so far.

“I understand they were saying they were raped, and I have sympathy for victims of rape, but I still think they should be questioned a little bit harder.”

He is also angry with the two schoolgirls and claimed they cried rape after being caught out drinking illegally.

“I wish I could prosecute them for what they did.

“I asked our solicitor about it but he said it could take years and would probably just get hoyaed out of court.”

A spokesman for Durham Constabulary said: “The two men who were previously arrested and released on police bail have been informed of the decision by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) that it is not continuing with the prosecution.

“Both they and the victims have been kept up to date with the CPS findings and the case is effectively closed.”

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