

# Merthyr Tydfil woman behind bars for false street rape claim

Police checks found alleged victim's story "full of holes" and attack never took place

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An innocent man spent nine hours behind bars and underwent intimate examinations after being falsely accused of rape.

Aleishia Katrina Worrell, 20, claimed she had been abducted by a masked Sean Hibberd before being tied to a lamppost and brutally raped in broad daylight and left for three hours before being released.

It was only when police realised her story was full of holes and was coming apart at the seams that she eventually owned up to her lies – but not before Mr Hibberd had spent nine hours and seven minutes in custody and 14 hours of police time had been wasted.

Worrell, of First Avenue, Galon Uchaf, Merthyr Tydfil, admitted perverting the course of justice when she appeared at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court.

David Pugh, prosecuting, said Worrell had been near the Merthyr Tydfil police station when she contacted the emergency services at 9.35pm on December 12.

She said Mr Hibberd had been wearing a balaclava, something she later retracted, when he abducted her earlier that same day at around 5.30pm.

She claimed he had taken her to the junction of the town's Tramroadside and Newcastle Street where he stripped her and himself, raping her as she remained tethered to the lamppost.

He had then dressed and left her tied up for three hours before returning to free her.

She then claimed that she had been dizzy when she had arrived at the police station after he had injected her with something after the alleged rape.

Mr Hibberd was arrested at 2.55am on December 13 and underwent the normal investigative procedures and being intimately examined by the force's female doctor.

But, said Mr Pugh, when police started to look at her claims in more details they realised she had been lying.

Not only was the area well lit, but there were workmen working at the old civic hall building, which had a clear view of the site, at the relevant time.

There had also been a road traffic accident reported at Tramroadside at the time Worrell claimed she was being raped and left.

"When she confirmed the location police informed her of the investigation and she became upset," said Mr Pugh.

"Her story was full of holes."

Worrell broke down and told officers: "It's all lies. I made it up because Sean was harassing me and my boyfriend and the police did nothing to him."

Clare Fear, defending Worrell, who has no previous convictions, said she suffered with an emotionally unstable personality disorder.

"She is extremely sorry for the effect on Mr Hibberd and appreciates the severity of her position," said Ms Fear.

The Recorder of Cardiff Judge Eleri Rees sent Worrell to a young offender institution for 18 months and told her: "The wider issue is that you made the position of those who have truly been raped much more difficult.

"Make the most of the assistance given to you and the education available and you will come out more mature and more sensible and will never offend again."

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/merthyr-tydfil-woman-behind-bars-5682544>