

2nd February 2010

Teenager claimed he was attacked in Bradford Moor Park

A 16-year-old boy was today locked up for falsely claiming he was violently raped by a Bradford taxi driver.

Top detectives wasted more than 400 hours investigating the boy's allegation that he was brutally assaulted late at night in Bradford Moor Park.

The boy, who was 15 when he lied to the police about the rape, was sentenced to a ten-month Detention and Training Order.

A judge at Bradford Crown Court told the teenager, who cannot be named because of his age: "You accused that innocent man of raping you in clear and graphic terms. The impact on him cannot be ignored – in fact it cannot be imagined."

The court heard that the taxi driver, a father-of-five, felt shamed in his community when word got round. He went to Pakistan for two months to escape the stress, after losing his job and his taxi licence.

Prosecutor Duncan Ritchie said the boy claimed he was pinned against a wall in the park and raped on his way by taxi from Buttershaw to Bradford Moor.

He claimed the taxi driver threatened to kill him if he did not comply with his sexual demands.

The entirely-innocent driver was held in custody for more than 30 hours and interviewed six times by the police.

The "rape" scene was sealed off and forensically examined.

The boy, who had taken cannabis and alcohol, did not own up to his lies for 28 days.

Mr Ritchie said West Yorkshire Police Homicide and Major Enquiry Team spent £18,000 on the inquiry and wasted more than 400 hours.

The taxi driver's relationship with his family was soured and social services allowed him only supervised contact with his children.

The boy's solicitor advocate, Tom Rushbrooke, said he was attention seeking and did not expect his allegation to be taken so seriously.

Of low intelligence, he still failed to grasp the full consequences of his actions and the terrible impact on the driver.

The judge, Recorder Julian Smith, said the driver was the victim of "the most appalling and baseless allegation."

<https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/4886408.teenager-claimed-he-was-attacked-in-bradford-moor-park/>