

Patrick Shann trial hears police have no record of child rape complaint 10 years ago

By [Hull Daily Mail](#) | Posted: September 23, 2015

By Simon Bristow

ON TRIAL: Patrick Shann denies two counts of raping a child under 13.

POLICE can find no record of an alleged child rape ten years ago, despite the complainant being "adamant" she reported it then.

A woman who claims she was raped as a 12-year-old by Patrick Shann told a jury she reported it to her mother and a friend, made a statement to police, and was visited by a female officer.

But Humberside Police Detective Constable Rebecca Harraway, the officer in the case, told Hull Crown yesterday the force had no record of the complaint.

Mr Shann, 73, denies two counts of raping a child under 13.

During cross-examination by Paul Genney, defending, it was suggested to the officer a child making such an allegation would be medically examined.

DC Harraway said: "Depending on the circumstances, it would be considered."

Trial judge, Recorder Anton Lodge QC, asked: "Well, it would be an essential consideration, wouldn't it?"

"If they felt it was in the best interests of the child," the officer replied.

Mr Genney said: "You would want to know if there is any medical evidence."

DC Harraway said: "As part of the investigation, yes."

"And there's no record of any of that?" Mr Genney asked.

"No," the officer replied.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Shann's DNA would have been on the complainant's shoes.

Mr Genney said: "If you'd been told there was a pair of shoes with the rapist's (DNA) on them, you would want to retrieve them, wouldn't you?"

DC Harraway said: "As the officer dealing with this inquiry now, yes."

Mr Genney said: "I'm not asking you to be Sherlock Holmes, any officer told about a pair of shoes with (DNA) on, he'd be wanting to retrieve them."

The officer agreed, and was asked if there was any record of the shoes.

She said: "I checked every system we possibly have to see if there's any record."

Mr Genney said: "So there's no record of a police officer having gone round?"

"No," the officer replied.

"No photographs being taken?" Mr Genney said.

"No," said DC Harraway.

"No record of the shoes with (DNA) on?" Mr Genney said.

"No," the officer said.

"Of Mr Shann being arrested?" Mr Genney said.

"No," said DC Harraway.

Mr Genney said: "She says there's this previous complaint ten years ago, and you can find no record of it." The officer said: "I did ask if she was sure, and she was sure, she was adamant."

The judge asked: "If there had been a record made in 2005, should it still be available in the police archive now?"

DC Harraway said: "Some of the systems were transferred over; not all of them.

"Some were paper records that have been destroyed. I couldn't establish speaking to colleagues from that time when that changeover was."

Patrick Palmer, prosecuting, asked the officer: "If the victim was too traumatised to perform an examination, would the examination be forced on the victim?"

DC Harraway said: "No. A lot say no to us all the time."

The complainant claims she went to Mr Shann's house on the Thornton estate in west Hull with friends and found herself alone with him after going to the toilet.

It is alleged that after using the "ruse" of offering her a cup of tea, he grabbed her from behind and raped her before pulling her by the hair upstairs, where he raped her again in his bedroom.

Giving evidence in his defence, Mr Shann told the court he had nine children, two of whom had been adopted.

He had been a single parent for 28 years, he said.

Asked by Mr Genney how he got on with children in the area, he said: "Alright, because I believe what you do in this world, you will be rewarded in the next."

Asked about the allegations, Mr Shann said: "A load of rubbish. I've had to sit there and listen to them lies."

"Did you rape her in the kitchen?", Mr Genney asked.

"Did I hell, no," said Mr Shann.

Asked about a particular detail of the allegations, Mr Shann said: "You know, that's disgusting. No I didn't.

"I've got three daughters of my own."

He was asked what he could remember of the complainant from the time, and said: "She liked a lot of attention.

"She told lies, the lot."

Mr Shann told the court he believed the complainant was motivated by financial gain.

"I even told DC Hemmingway [Harraway] she's doing it for the money," he said.

Mr Shann told the jury he was a former soldier who had served in Borneo with the Gurkhas.

He had also suffered a heart attack since the allegations were made, he said.

The trial continues.

<http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Patrick-Shann-trial-hears-police-record-child/story-27848271-detail/story.html>