

The Inverness Courier

Woman jailed for false rape claim



Charlene Keilty - jailed for false claim

A WOMAN was jailed for 18 months today for making a false rape claim against a bus driver.

Inverness Sheriff Court heard how the driver had to undergo embarrassing forensic tests and examinations, was placed under extreme stress and was transferred by his employers before Charlene Keilty finally confessed to police 16 months later that her allegations were untrue.

Keilty (23) of Union Street, Inverness, was appearing for sentence having previously admitted on various occasions between August 23, 2009 and December 16, 2010 wasting police time by making false claims that she had been dragged to the back of a bus at Cromdale Park, Cromdale, and raped by the driver.

Sentenced had been deferred for reports but Keilty was previously warned by Sheriff Margaret Neilson should could face prison.

When she was jailed by Sheriff Ian Abercrombie, first offender, Keilty broke down in tears as she was led from the dock.

Depute fiscal Ian Smith said Keilty had presented herself at Aviemore Health Centre on 23rd August 2009 and told the practice nurse she had been raped the previous Wednesday while the driver was working on a journey to Cromdale. She was then taken to Raigmore for tests and told a nurse she wanted the police to be informed.

Mr Smith said she described to police officers the alleged assault and said it was a Stagecoach driver and she gave a description of him to the police.

She said he had dragged her up the aisle to the back of the bus, pulled down her underwear, lifted her dress and had sex with her.

Keilty's clothing was collected for forensic examination and the following day the driver was interviewed at Burnett Road Police Station.

"He confirmed he was on the bus but said nothing untoward had happened," said the fiscal.

"He consented to being medically examined. He was alarmed by the allegations and worried his partner, who had not long since given birth to a baby may find out."

Mr Smith said as a result of the allegations he was taken off bus runs in Badenoch and Strathspey by his employers and put on to runs in Inverness.

The fiscal said Lothian and Borders police were called in to interview a friend of Keilty who told them the accused had never mentioned the alleged rape.

She repeated the allegations in another interview on August 31 but Mr Smith said already police were beginning to find discrepancies in her story.

It was not until October 2010 forensic tests confirmed no trace of DNA linking the driver to the Keilty.

"The accused was detained on the 16th of December 2010 on suspicion of wasting police time. She stated she had not been raped. Asked why, she stated she had been going through a difficult time in her life."

Mr Smith said the medical examinations were conclusive and when the driver was later interviewed by the police he told of his feelings about his ordeal.

He said the medical embarrassed him and he felt awkward.

"I was so shocked that such an allegation was made. I was nervous and frightened being spoke to by police. I cooperated fully."

The fiscal said the driver also wanted to tell his partner what the allegations were to her face rather than police doing it.

Iain Innes, solicitor for Keilty, said there was little he could say because the reports before the court did not assist him.

"She was depressed and suicidal. Her head was all over the place and she has borderline personality disorder. She was rootless and lonely and I think that at last some people were paying attention to her was the underlying reason (for her actions)."

He added that no-one could have anything but sympathy for the driver.

Sheriff Abercrombie told Keilty she had made very serious allegations against a totally innocent bus driver.

He said no-one could dare to imagine the stress caused to him and his family who had been subjected to an unfounded allegation for a very long time.

The Sheriff said he took into account Keilty was a first offender and took into account her early plea hen considering the length of her sentence.

<https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/News/Woman-jailed-for-false-rape-claims-01112011.htm>