

HILLINGDON & UXBRIDGE **TIMES**

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Girls jailed after admitting they made up rape claims

By [Kerry McQueeney](#)

Two teenage girls who claimed they were gang raped in a Croydon car park have been jailed after admitting they made the whole story up.

Lauren Moran and Zara Harris, both 19, were sentenced to 10 and eight months respectively at Croydon Crown Court last Friday (September 12) for lying about the attacks and subjecting an innocent 15-year-old boy and three other men to a three-month investigation by police.

Moran, of Tedder Close, South Croydon, and Harris, of Ellis Road, Old Coulsdon, sparked a panic last August when they claimed they were gang raped in a car park on Scarbrook Road following a birthday night out in Croydon.

They later pointed out their 'attackers' to police and, despite conflicting statements from witnesses who had seen the pair happily chatting with the accused on the night of their so-called rape, continued with their deceit until last November.

This week detectives who investigated the pair's claims say their actions have not only damaged the reputations of the four accused, but have seriously hindered progress made with genuine victims of rape in coming forward to reporting the crime. They also wasted a considerable amount of police time, money and resources.

Trainee Detective Constable (TDC) Polly Rawlinson, from Croydon's Sapphire Unit, said: "We have no idea why they did it. Both the girls' parents were horrified at what they had done.

"At the time of them making the allegation there had been a couple of attacks in the borough so, naturally, we took it very seriously.

“But as we investigated we realised very early on that their stories did not fit together.” The four suspects were arrested and underwent DNA testing but, with no physical evidence linking them to the ‘crime’, were never charged or held in custody.

TDC Rawlinson added: “They persisted with their story and we knew they were lying. It wasn’t until a few months later they finally admitted they had made the whole thing up.

“While we would always encourage real victims of rape to report it, we will take action against those who make false allegations.”

http://www.hillingdontimes.co.uk/news/413384.Girls_jailed_after_admitting_they_made_up_rape_claims/