

Pictured in bed after prom night romp with pupil but French teacher insists 'I'm the victim'

PRACTISING Christian Isabelle Graham, 27, told a disciplinary hearing her drinks must have been spiked after photo showing young man in doorway emerged online.

BY **JANE HAMILTON**

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THIS photo led to a young French teacher being accused of a prom night sex session with a teenage pupil.

But Isabelle Graham, 27, has told a disciplinary hearing: "I'm the victim" and insists her drinks must have been spiked.

The photo shows a blonde woman, alleged to be Graham, in bed in an Edinburgh Travelodge.

It is claimed the young man in the doorway is the pupil named in the charges against her, identified only as Pupil A.

Graham, who says she is a practising Christian who was saving herself for marriage, denies the charges. She has already quit her job at Whitburn Academy in West Lothian.



French teacher Isabelle Graham, 27, insists her drinks must have been spiked

She faces being banned from teaching if a disciplinary hearing against her finds the allegations proven and deems her unfit to continue in the profession.

Graham insists she has no memory of the events of that night, the General Teaching Council for Scotland hearing in Edinburgh was told.

She has been backed by her husband Andrew Wilkie, who is training for the clergy. He says he is certain she is telling the truth.

But a policeman called to give evidence yesterday said CCTV from the night showed no evidence of her drink having been spiked. DS Keith Mailer also said there was no evidence of it when she was tested at a hospital.



Isabelle Graham during her wedding day with husband Andrew Wilkie

He said: "Throughout the footage there's no sign Ms Graham is under the excessive influence of drugs or alcohol."

Footage also showed the teacher and student kissing, he said.

He added: "The way she moved and conducted herself suggested someone who was making conscious decisions."

Police raised charges against Graham but the procurator fiscal did not pursue them, citing a lack of evidence.

Wilkie represented his wife – who he married last summer – at a procedural GTCS hearing last month.

At that hearing, the couple tried unsuccessfully to have the case against Graham heard in private.

Graham did not attend the hearing yesterday and had no representation there.



Edinburgh's Carlton Highland Hotel where the prom night took place

The teacher, who now lives in England, turned down the opportunity to take part via video link.

Graham is alleged to have spent three hours alone with the teenager, drinking with him, sharing a bed with him and “repeatedly engaging in sexual activity”.

The GTCS charge goes on: “And in light of the above, it is alleged that your fitness to teach is impaired.”

It is claimed the encounter happened after the pair left the upmarket Carlton Highland hotel in central Edinburgh where the prom took place in June 2014 and went to a nearby Travelodge.

The hearing was shown the photo of the room and was told it was taken by another pupil who was sharing a room with Pupil A.

That boy said he returned numerous times to the room to find Graham in the bed.



The Travelodge Hotel in Waterloo Place where the alleged incident took place

Council employee Fraser Thomson, who investigated the case, said their inquiry began after senior teaching staff found out the photo from the hotel room had been uploaded on social media.

He added evidence from students outlined how they saw “Pupil A and Ms Graham lying on the bed, one on top of the covers and one underneath”.

The official said Graham told him the four glasses of wine she had drunk would not normally intoxicate her to that level.

She said of the photograph: “It looks like my hair.”



Whitburn Academy where Isabelle Graham was working at the time of the alleged incident

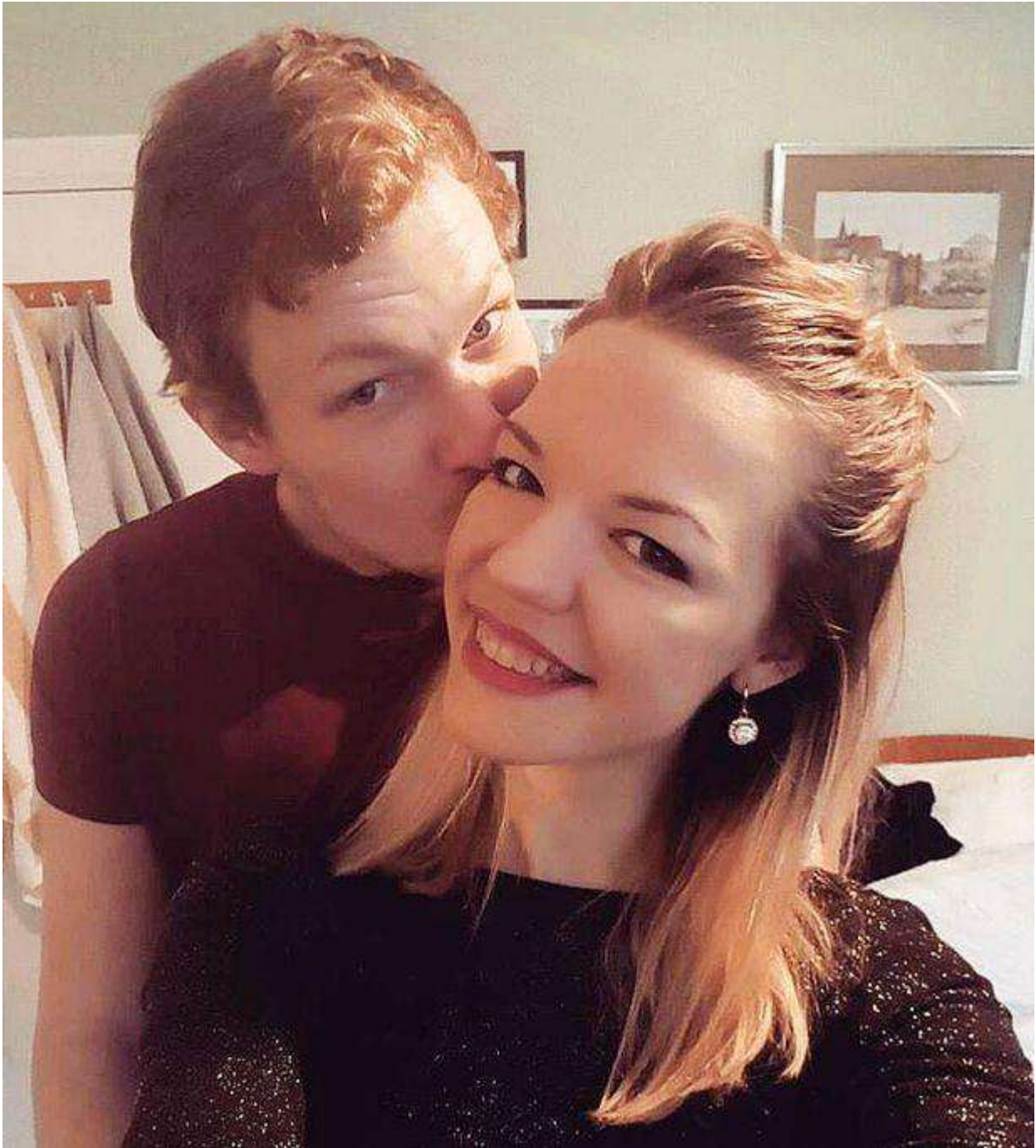
But she denied recognising the young man in the photograph.

In the statement Graham provided to be read in her defence at the hearing, she claimed that she had been the “victim” on the night in question – reiterating that she had no recollection of the events.

She said that if the photo did feature her, she was clearly unconscious at the time and therefore it was “posed” without her consent.

She went on: “The person in the bed in the photo is clearly not in control of the situation.”

Responding to DS Mailer’s claim that CCTV evidence showed no signs of intoxication, she also claimed that date rape drugs are available which leave victims lucid but hinder their decision-making ability.



Isabelle Graham with her husband Andrew Wilkie

She added that she was an “active and practising Christian” who was “waiting until marriage” before having sex.

Her husband said: “In all the time I have known her, she has always put her Christian faith above all other things. I have never had any doubt that the allegations made against her were false.”

He also accused West Lothian Council of making “slanderous comments”.

The hearing was adjourned until today, when the panel will give their ruling.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/pictured-bed-after-prom-night-8731298>