

# False rape claim was a cover up

AN office girl falsely claimed she had been gang-raped by four men to cover up the fact she'd spent the night in the pub with a workmate, a court heard.

BY **MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS**

11:34, 16 FEB 2006 **UPDATED**07:01, 18 JAN 2013



**VICTORIA Eaves** - said she had been kidnapped and raped.

AN office girl falsely claimed she had been gang-raped by four men to cover up the fact she'd spent the night in the pub with a workmate, a court heard.

Victoria Eaves, 19, from Winton, said she had been kidnapped from the street by four Asian or Turkish men before being blindfolded and driven to a house where she was repeatedly sexually assaulted over a four-hour period.

But her claims were unmasked as a sham after police discovered Eaves - who worked for a development company - had been having a sexual encounter with a male colleague outside a pub at the time she said the rape occurred.

Police spent up to 200 hours investigating office temp Eaves' false allegations at a huge cost to the taxpayer.

Eaves, of Bromsgrove Avenue, admitted perverting the course of justice at Minshall Street Crown Court and was ordered to complete 12 months' community rehabilitation and 200 hours' community punishment.

The reported incident, in July last year, sparked a massive police search involving specially trained officers, who attended Eaves' work place and arranged for her to be video-interviewed and medically examined.

Although an appointment was made at St Mary's Sexual Assault Centre, further investigations revealed Eaves was lying and had spent the night socialising with a male colleague.

She had the sexual encounter with the man - known only in court as Mr Yates - outside The Gatehouse pub in Salford, then went to the nearby Rovers Return. They stayed there until 11pm.

Prosecutor John Marsh said Eaves later tried to change her story and falsely accuse her colleague of rape.

But police did not arrest Mr Yates and when they made inquiries at the pub they were told she had been there all night.

Mr Marsh said: "When she was taken to the station she refused to say anything about it when she was accused of lying. She made a complaint about her colleague."

Inquiries revealed Eaves had also falsely claimed her grandfather had died.

In mitigation defence counsel Iain Johnstone said she had never been in trouble with police before. He added she had since lost her job at the development firm and has been working as an office temp at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Passing sentence, Judge Adrian Lyon said: "She felt her mother would blame her for being out that evening and tried to deflect the blame away from herself.

"It all boils down to a childish lie to get out of trouble. She's probably done it a number of times, but this time it was far worse. It resulted in time wasting by police. She was behaving like a four-year-old child."

He added: "It's your lucky day that no-one was arrested, interviewed or given the stigma of having been arrested for this rape offence."

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/local-news/false-rape-claim-was-a-cover-up-1022445>