

Young girls to write letter of apology to innocent man they falsely accused of park sex attack

Officers released an image of the man taken by the one girl on her mobile phone and asked for people to come forward who recognised him

BY **TODD FITZGERALD**

12:13, 5 APR 2016 **UPDATED**12:59, 5 APR 2016



This man has been cleared of any wrongdoing

Two young girls lied about a man sexually assaulting one of them in a park, according to police. The girls had claimed one of them, 13, was assaulted as she walked with her 12-year-old friend on Saturday.

Officers released an image of the falsely accused attacker taken on one of the girl's mobile phones.

But after interviewing the man in question - and calls from members of the public - Greater Manchester Police say the girls admitted their story was made up.

The youngsters will have to write letters of apology to him as a form of restorative justice, reports the Manchester Evening News .

The girl who claimed to have been attacked told officers she was walking with her friend along a dirt track leading from Lilford Park towards Green Lane, in Leigh, at around 6.30pm on Saturday when a man approached her from behind before hitting her and throwing her to the floor.

The man has now been cleared of any wrongdoing.

Officers spoke to the girls and their parents following their false claim.



Lilford Park, in Leigh, where the girls claim they were attacked (Image: Google)

Detective Constable Brian Johnston said: "First and foremost, I would like to send my sincerest thanks to the members of public who came forward and helped with our investigation.

"Your assistance has resulted in an innocent man clearing his name, and wrongs being righted.

"Quite what inspired the girls to lie about such a serious and terrible crime, I cannot say.

"But they have spoken to in the strongest possible terms and are under no illusions as to the severity of what they have done and how damaging false allegations can be.

"Thankfully, their parents and the man in question were fully supportive of restorative justice and the girls will now have the chance to apologise fully for the terrible accusations they fabricated against this poor man," said Det Con Johnston.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/young-girls-write-letter-apology-7691929>