

The Herald

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Tears as sex case girl admits lying

AN 11-year-old girl who told a court she had been sexually abused by a number of men sobbed after admitting yesterday she had told lies in the past about her alleged ordeal.

The girl, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, was giving evidence in the High Court in Edinburgh for a seventh day in the trial of six men. They deny allegations of serious sexual abuse against the girl and her eight-year-old brother.

In court yesterday, Ruth Anderson QC, defending, questioned the girl about things she had said while being interviewed during the preparation of the court case.

The girl had then claimed she was taken to an Ayrshire house every day after school where she would be made to strip off her school uniform and touch men's private parts.

But in court, said the lawyer, the story had changed as the girl was questioned.

The girl had said in her evidence that the abuse happened weekly, sometimes involving only two men, sometimes involving a number of men.

At first, the girl told Ms Anderson that she was getting mixed up during questioning, but the lawyer challenged: "You simply told a lie." The girl simply replied: "Yes."

The six men in the dock deny - among them - sex offences at addresses in Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway between August 1992 and August 1998.

On trial are William Wilson, 38, of Loudon Road West, Newmilns; Peter Cairns, 40, of Manse Brae, Ochiltree; David Wilson, 36, of Bridge Street, Galston; Garry Wales, 37, of Wallace Street, Galston, and Timothy Harris, 39, from Stoke-on-Trent, whose address has been given as a solicitor's office in Ayr. Also on trial is Ronald McCarlie, 45, of Carlie House, Gatehouse-of-Fleet.

William Wilson denies four charges of rape and two indecent assaults on the girl. He also denies six charges of sodomising her brother. It is also alleged that he abused the children

along with the other men on trial. Cairns denies raping the same girl and sodomising the boy. David Wilson also denies raping the girl and sodomising the boy. Wales denies indecently assaulting the girl and sodomising the boy. McCarlie denies indecently assaulting the girl and sodomising the boy. Harris denies raping the girl and sodomising the boy.

The trial continues.

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