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Detective cleared or rape

A Gwent Police detective has been cleared of raping a teenage student he met in a Cardiff nightclub and began chatting about their mutual interest in Shakespeare.



A jury at Cardiff Crown Court took just 40 minutes to find Detective Constable Richard Jasper, 32, not guilty of the rape and indecent assault of the 19-year-old.

Mr Jasper, from Caerphilly, a policeman for seven-and-a-half years, had denied both charges, saying he had the student's 'total consent' for sex when they met on 22 August and had stopped when she had asked him to.

During the trial Jasper had told of his "four months of hell" since the rape claim was first made against him.

He said he did not know why the teenager had gone to the police after they shared a taxi from the Jumpin' Jaks nightclub in Cardiff city centre - where they had kissed and talked about Shakespeare - and ended up in bed together at her home.

The teenager later left and, the court heard, he was then woken by police banging on the door to arrest him

"If I could account for and understand the hell I've been through in the past four months it would be the best thing in the world," he said.

“ There's no way I could do that to a human being ”

Richard Jasper

A university graduate and former rugby prop forward at Bridgend and Caerphilly, he had told the jury he would "not be capable" of rape.

"I was the most dumbfounded, shocked and hurt person in the world when this hell started for me, and I still am now," he said.

"I swear I didn't do that. I'm not capable of that. There's no way I could do that to a human being."

‘Distressed’

The jury had earlier heard evidence that the girl had at one point managed to get away from the police officer, claiming she had to text her mother who was away for the night.

She had in fact contacted some friends but then returned to the bedroom before making another excuse and fled to a neighbour's house.

"The neighbour found her in a very distressed state. She almost collapsed into his arms. She told him what happened and he called police," Keith Thomas, prosecuting, told the trial

"Perhaps she got herself into a situation that she couldn't control. There is no doubt that at the start of the evening she was very friendly to him."

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south_east/3334307.stm