

Former Surrey cop denies 'malicious' rape accusations

Salim Ismail, a sergeant with West Yorkshire Police, told Guildford Crown Court he believed his accuser was "bitter and angry"

BY Russell Butt

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Salim Ismail (blue jacket)

A former Surrey Police officer has said allegations that he raped and indecently assaulted a young girl came as a "complete shock" to him.

Salim Ismail, 51, of Oakworth, West Yorkshire, denies rape and attempted rape charges plus two counts of indecent assault, involving a girl under the age of 13 and alleged to have taken place between September 22 1993 and September 23 1996.

Taking to the witness stand on Thursday, Mr Ismail told Guildford Crown Court he believed the allegations had been made out of malice.

Philippa McAtasney, defending, asked: "Did you ever indecently assault her?"

"No, I did not," replied Ismail.

Asked if he had ever raped or attempted to rape his accuser, he replied with the same confident response: "No, I did not."

"Do you have any sexual interest in children at all?" asked Ms McAtasney.

"Not at all, no," he responded.

"Did you ever have any sexual attraction towards her?" the defendant was asked, again replying no.

The court was told he was arrested on November 13 2012, when police officers went to his home at 6.30am and he was initially interviewed for two-and-a-half hours.

When asked by prosecutor Ian Hope if he believed the allegations had been made up, Mr Ismail replied "yes" and said his accuser was "bitter and angry".

Quizzed about seeing her again more than 15 years after the alleged offences, the defendant said: "She was OK, she was happy."

"So suddenly three weeks later she is making up these allegations maliciously?" asked Mr Hope.

"Yes," Mr Ismail answered.

The defendant began working for the police in West Yorkshire as a specialist constable, before applying for a job with Surrey Police in 1993.

He moved back to Yorkshire after 2000, where he continued his work with the police and was promoted to sergeant in 2008.

The trial continues and is expected to last until the end of the week.

<https://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/salim-ismail-ex-surrey-police-officer-7403361>