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CPS blamed as rape trial is thrown out

A judge has called for tougher controls on which rape cases reach court after a trial into the alleged gang rape of a Barnet schoolgirl collapsed due to a discrepancy in her story.

Judge Jeremy Roberts said the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had not properly investigated the case and had failed to consider whether there was a chance of conviction.

"It may be due to a culture within the CPS of avoiding decisions which may be unpopular," he said.

He added that a significant number of rape cases come to trial with no prospect of a guilty verdict and called for an experienced lawyer to look at allegations first.

The girl had accused two teenagers she met in Wood Green of raping her in an alleyway in Manor House and further assaulting her in an abandoned car.

But the CPS failed to re-interview her after one of the boys told police she had willingly had sex with them.

The 16-year-old said the three had travelled to her home in Barnet before she told them she wanted to stay the night with them in Clapton. Tube CCTV footage backed up his story.

The girl later admitted she had travelled to Barnet with the boys. Judge Roberts said her admission made her an unreliable witness and threw the case out.

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