

# WOMAN'S FAKE RAPE CLAIM WAS 'REJECTION REVENGE'

■ Court hears victim turned her down



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# Spurned woman made rape claim in 'revenge'

BY KATHRYN WYLIE

A WOMAN falsely accused a man of rape in an "act of revenge" after he rebuffed her advances.

Susan Stewart told police officers a pack of lies and accused the man of sexually assaulting her following a night out in Fraserburgh on December 16 2018.

Aberdeen Sheriff Court was told she concocted the story after he told her he was more interested in dating her cousin.

When Stewart, 34, found out that he had been to visit her relative, she texted him "well, we will see what the police have to say" before making the false rape claims.

Fiscal deputy Lucy Simpson said Stewart contacted police on January 18 2019 and told them the man had raped her just over a month earlier.

Ms Simpson said: "She stated she had met him by chance within a licensed premise in Fraserburgh and that he had pestered her by repeatedly trying to buy her drinks, attempting to dance with her and attempting to exchange telephone numbers with her so that they could arrange a future date.

"She stated that he eventually persuaded her to walk with him to his house where he told her there was an ongoing party.

"She alleged that he duped her into attending his home address and that when she got there she realised that there was no party.

"The accused reported that he raped her there.

"Given the nature of the allegation made by the accused, a sexual offences liaison officer was deployed and a high-priority sexual offences inquiry was instigated.

"A comprehensive statement was noted and read back to her. The accused agreed that the content of her statement was accurate."

Police cautioned and arrested the man on January 22 2019 and he immediately "pleaded with officers" to look at his mobile phone, which unearthed various messages between Stewart and him.

The fiscal added: "From the outset, he protested his innocence



Susan Stewart made the false allegation about the man after finding out that he had visited her cousin

and stated that the allegation was a complete fabrication by the accused as an act of revenge after she found out that he had been trying to arrange a date with her cousin.

"He pleaded with police officers to examine his mobile phone as he felt it contained evidence which would show the accused to be a liar."

His phone showed the pair had been in regular contact in the weeks leading up to the man's arrest date.

The content of the messages suggested Stewart had been

"actively pursuing" a relationship with the man at the time. However, they also showed that there was a disagreement on the same day she made the rape allegation to officers.

"The accused discovered the man had been to visit her cousin," the fiscal said.

"When the accused told him to stop contacting her cousin and he refused to do so, she sent him a message which read 'well, we will see what the police have to say'.

"She attended at the police station a few hours later and reported the rape."

The court was told that the allegations prompted a "serious sexual offence inquiry that placed a high demand on police resources".

Her victim, while in police custody, made a complaint about Stewart's false allegation of rape against him.

Stewart admitted a charge of wasting police time.

Sheriff Ian Wallace deferred sentencing of Stewart, of Ward Road, Rosehearty, for background reports and a restriction of liberty order assessment to be carried out.