

Case Histories of False Allegations of Rape (UK Only)

The case histories are listed in inverse chronological order (by year only). The year in question is that of the latest trial or other hearing, or possibly the falsely accused's date of release from prison. It is *not* the date of the alleged assault (which is generally at least a year or two earlier, and often far earlier than that).

All cases relate to the UK.

Only false allegations of sexual assault are included, most are rape cases.

The title may bear the name either of the false accuser or of the accused and often both. In general it is obvious from the sex which is which – but there are exceptions (males sometimes make false allegations, and those accused may be female – but there are only a few of these in the list). In general the name of the accuser is only known in cases where they have been prosecuted, otherwise the identity of the accuser is generally not published. The photos correspond to the person named in the title.

There are 146 cases listed. The number of cases against year are given below – but don't read anything into this as this is only a small sample of cases. The smaller numbers in earlier years means nothing other than it is an even smaller sample – because older cases are less readily retrieved.

Year	Number of Cases in List
2018	5
2017	23
2016	30
2015	11
2014	23
2013	14
2012	5
2011	10
2010	10
2009	2
2008	1
2007	3
2006	4
2005	3
2000	1
1997	1

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18/1: Oliver Mears and Anonymous Female



2018: Oxford chemistry student [Oliver Mears](#) was arrested weeks after his 17th birthday and accused of raping and indecently assaulting a woman in 2015. He was charged in June 2017. He reportedly left St Hugh's College because of stress. Mr Mears, now 19, was told he was to be found not guilty following a review of evidence just days before he was due to go on trial. The CPS said it decided to offer no evidence against Mr Mears after reviewing evidence handed to them by Surrey Police, some of which was only received last week. Prosecutors said they decided to discontinue the trial "for a number of reasons".

This follows [a pattern now very familiar](#). Police and the CPS keep the accused on a string for two or three years, unable to properly move on with his life and in a state of permanent anxiety, only to drop the case within days of the trial for lack of evidence. But examine the above statement. The case was dropped ostensibly for lack of evidence "after reviewing evidence handed to them by Surrey Police". Eh? When is evidence lack of evidence? When it is exculpatory evidence, of course. It is reasonable to suppose that this exculpatory evidence had been available from 2015 – but the 'process' did not bother to act upon it. Why was Mr Mears ever charged – *that* is the question?

Lawyers asked for the case to be dropped just hours after Alison Saunders, the director of public prosecutions, raised eyebrows when she said photographs and social media accounts do not necessarily need to be fully checked in rape cases. She insisted she does not believe anyone is in jail after being wrongly convicted because of failures to disclose evidence. Both of these utterances are emphatically contradicted by the cases compiled here.

18/2: Samson Makele and Anonymous Woman

2018: [Samson Makele](#), 28, was due to go on trial accused of raping a woman he met at the Notting Hill Carnival two and a half years earlier. But at the pre-trial hearing, prosecutors “offered no evidence”. Yet another rape trial collapsed within days of starting – after years of the accused being on bail – not really because of “lack of evidence”, but because of exculpatory evidence which showed that a charge should never have been brought, in this case the discovery that crucial photographs ***had not been disclosed by detectives***.

The couple took a taxi back from the carnival to Mr Makele’s flat where they had sex and the woman stayed the night. The next day she went to police and told them she had been raped and also accused Mr Makele of preventing her from leaving his flat. Mr Makele denied the charge and said sex with the woman was consensual, but he was charged with rape. His phone was examined but his defence lawyers were told that apart from a number of text messages, there was nothing else of interest on the handset. But Mr Makele’s lawyers undertook their own examination of the phone and found images stored showing the couple cuddling in bed. If the defence lawyers had not discovered this evidence for themselves, it is likely Mr Makele would have been convicted.

The police or the prosecutors are supposed to supply evidence to the defence. Instead it was the defence who supplied evidence to the prosecution. The system failed, and it is clear from many of the cases gathered here that this is a systemic failure which has been going on for many years.

Paris Theodorou, representing Mr Makele, said he had been subjected to “18 months of hell”, with the criminal accusation hanging over him. The ordeal had left him unable to function properly, unable to sleep and unable to ‘go anywhere, even for a day’. Mr Makele said that he did not know whether the police failure to obtain the photographs was “an oversight or an act of sheer incompetence”. My concern would be whether it was deliberate obstruction of justice.

18/3: Mackele Tekleliamanot and Anonymous Woman



2018: [Mackele Tekleliamanot](#), 29, spent a year in custody awaiting trial for an alleged attempted rape. He was accused of pouncing on the drunken woman after she fell asleep on the Tube, dragging her into a park and attempting to rape her against a tree. He claimed their sexual encounter had been consensual.

Mr Tekleliamanot had no previous offences. Mid-way through his trial it emerged that police had failed to hand over CCTV showing the alleged victim walking hand-in-hand with the suspect in a 'happy frame of mind' as the pair strolled to the park – having travelled together for at least two hours before the alleged attack. The footage was not mentioned on disclosure schedules that are meant to be reviewed by the CPS well ahead of trial. Instead it was only disclosed to the defence after barristers reviewed the evidence at the start of the trial. The case was halted while the prosecutor reviewed the footage. The prosecutor was not of the same opinion as the investigating officer – who had said the footage 'contained nothing of relevance'. On the contrary, the prosecutor immediately dropped the case as there was 'no longer a realistic prospect of conviction'. This is the usual expression, which clearly in this case actually means the accuser was a liar. Mr Tekleliamanot was then formally cleared of the charges of attempted rape and assault by penetration.

As has now become almost a tradition, the judge blasted police and prosecutors for withholding of the CCTV evidence. Recorder Bruce Houlder, QC, said: 'Incidents of failure in the disclosure process are daily becoming more apparent'. I would add that this case is even worse than others. Generally the accused is at least out on bail whilst awaiting trial. Mr Tekleliamanot was incarcerated for a year purely on the say-so of this lying woman prior to trial. In addition to the now-familiar questions around disclosure, there is another question in this case: on what basis did the police regard this man of good character a threat to society that they refused bail?

18/4: John Brown and Two Anonymous Women



2018: [John Brown](#) is the brother of Dana (full name is Dana Rosemary Scallon), the successful Eurovision contestant, one time Irish presidential candidate and former MEP. Mr Brown was also Dana's contract advisor in respect of her singing career. It would take nearly six years from the initial allegations of indecent assault against two underage girls before Mr Brown would be tried and acquitted. It would be nearly another four years before the police would advise the CPS to prosecute the witnesses in the trial on claims of perjury. At the time of writing we await the CPS's decision. If they do prosecute, it will be the first time a complainant of historical sexual assault has been prosecuted.

Mr Brown was accused of indecent assault on a girl between 5 and 7 years old in London and in a seaside town in the south west of England. She alleged that he had abused her again in a town she thought could be Torquay when she was between eight and nine. He was also accused of indecently assaulting another girl, aged 10 or 11, in Northern Ireland and Romford.

The allegations first surfaced in a manner which you, reader, may find suspicious (I couldn't possibly comment). In his capacity as his sister's contract adviser, Mr Brown had been asked in a legal deposition in a US court who owned the copyright to various of Dana's performances. In this context Mr Brown was acting as a witness. He confirmed that Dana owned the copyright and the meeting was brought to a halt. Ten minutes later a lawyer came back into the deposition meeting and said that Mr Brown could not be a credible witness regarding the copyright of Dana's work because he had abused a young girl for years.

This allegation came from nowhere and it took Mr Brown a little while to grasp what was being claimed. You may think this sounds like an unscrupulous big American lawyer trying to frighten away an unsuspecting Irishman from claiming a valuable copyright. I couldn't possibly comment.

Nearly six years later, after a 12 day trial and 12 hours of jury deliberation, Mr Brown was acquitted unanimously of all charges.

In the trial, the evidence of the two main complainants was flawed to the extent that one was not even in the country at the time of the alleged abuse. There were also claims of abuse at a property that had not been built at the time.

Mr Brown had been on bail for over two years. The cost of his defence prior to getting legal aid exceeded £200,000. He had had to sell his house to finance his defence. The cost of the cases to the taxpayer over three years is estimated to be £1.5million.

Now up to [seven witnesses at the trial could face prosecution](#) for perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice. The police have sent a file of evidence to the CPS. It is believed that the court transcripts, fabricated evidence and signed prosecution witness statements prove police had been knowingly misled by complainants and prosecution witnesses and that perjury was committed. There is sufficient evidence for prosecution in the opinion of the police and a decision is awaited from the CPS. If they do prosecute, it may open the floodgates to prosecutions of other complainants in historic sexual abuse cases.

18/5: Stephen Glascoe, Patrick Graham, three other men, and Anonymous Woman



2018: [Charges against five men accused of being in a paedophile ring](#) have been dropped two weeks before trial and their accuser labelled a “serial fantasist” after it was revealed the woman had made false allegations on multiple occasions. The accused included retired GP Stephen Glascoe, 67, and retired social worker Patrick Graham, 61. It strains credibility that the police would take her outlandish claims seriously. One wonders about the thousands of reports of rape to police which they do **not** put forward to the CPS, if this is what does get through.

In 2016 a woman made accusations against the five men, saying that she had been abused at parties when she was between 3 and 15 years of age. She also said she was forced to have an abortion and was forced to help the men torture other children. The five men were due to stand trial in two weeks’ time for their alleged involvement in a paedophile ring.

A medical expert said that the woman’s account of her backyard abortion, allegedly performed on her by Dr Glascoe, had been lifted from TV show portrayals of abortions on programs like ‘Call the Midwife’ and the film ‘Vera Drake’. She told police that one of the men had sent her a package from Amazon that included wires twisted in the very same way that her hands had allegedly been tied while they abused her. She later conceded that she had actually ordered the parcel herself.

As a teenager, the woman had admitted to making false rape allegations. Ten years ago she also alleged on a BBC program that she had been raped by another guest, but no charges were ever brought. (Perhaps if they had, this story would have been avoided). She made another complaint in 2012 that saw her awarded £22,000 in damages from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, despite refusing to cooperate with police during the investigation. And still the police believed her most recent claims? Had she claimed alien abduction, would they have had patrol cars out looking for flying saucers?

“We have been living in fear,” Dr Glascoe said. “This issue of automatically believing complainants [in sexual abuse cases] conflicts with the requirement of an objective investigation.” Glascoe hit out at director of public prosecutions Alison Saunders over her comments that many men cleared of rape were not falsely accused. He said, “Does Alison Saunders still believe that I am guilty? Surely not,” he said. “Does she accept that a miscarriage of justice has been narrowly averted? While I feel bitter about the way the police have dealt with this they have only been following orders right from the top. It is not surprising that false allegations are made when there is the incentive of cash compensation.”

Mr Graham, a retired social worker who was charged with indecent assault, said “the police simply believed everything she said and even when she changed her story they continued to accept it. She is a serial fantasist who has admitted making up allegations before. They (the police) were willing to wreck five families’ lives on the police altar of better statistics for rape prosecutions.”

Glascoe’s lawyer Christopher Clee wrote that the woman had “throughout manipulated the proceedings, disclosing incidents of alleged abuse as and when it suits [sic] her purposes; these allegations emerging through counselling sessions which in themselves are of dubious standing. She found a powerful ally in the police, who have acted upon her allegations without question, ignoring obvious lines of inquiry and seeking to undermine potential evidence that contradicts her allegations”.

17/1: Liam Allen and Anonymous Woman



2017: The [Liam Allan](#) case was the detonator for an explosion of other botched rape cases and concern over disclosure which, as I write is still gathering political strength.

The debacle concerns the lack of disclosure of exculpatory evidence by the police. To be more precise, in two rape cases which have come to prominence, disclosure was made but only at the last minute and with considerably less than alacrity. Had the disclosures not been made, both these young men, and [Isaac Itiary](#), would probably have gone to prison for a long time and none of us would have ever heard of them. The concern, of course, is that this has been precisely the fate of many young men before them.

The case against Liam Allan collapsed when former conservative MP Jerry Hayes, the prosecution barrister – yes, the **prosecution** barrister – insisted that the police hand over the evidence from the complainants' phone. Some 50,000 messages were finally revealed on the first day of the trial itself. The defence advocate, Julia Smart, should be mentioned in dispatches. She spent the rest of that day – and undoubtedly all night – reviewing the contents of the new disclosure. Among them were messages to Mr Allan pestering him for sex, and fantasising about “rough sex and being raped.” One message read simply “it wasn’t against my will or anything”. The prosecution advised the case be withdrawn. It was.

Jerry Hayes said, *“The police have to be independent and they cannot cherry pick evidence. They are not there to build the case for the prosecution.”* We can take some comfort from the continued existence of decent people such as Mr Hayes who are still motivated by justice, albeit hamstrung within a broken system.

Liam Allan had been under investigation or awaiting trial on a false allegation for nearly two years. Had he been convicted – and there was a better than 50% chance he would have been – he would very probably have received a sentence of around twelve years imprisonment and he would have been on the sex offenders' register for the rest of his life. A young man would have had his life ruined by a false allegation. He owes his freedom to the professionalism of the man instructed to prosecute him.

One of the notable aspects of this case – and it isn't just one case really, it's a tipping point, a denouement, a purgation – is the number of experienced lawyers who are now being extremely outspoken about the failures of the system.

Solicitor Nick Freeman has called for people who make false rape and sex assault allegations to be stripped of their statutory anonymity and named on a public register. *“The time has come for there*

to be a register where the names of those who make these disgraceful and disgusting allegations are added", [he said](#), "Sadly, Mr Allan's case is not a one off. It is one of many – the tip of the iceberg. False allegations are made on a daily basis, and those who make them can hide behind a lifelong veil of anonymity."

Freeman is not the first lawyer to call for such a false-alleger register. The appeal court judge Lord Lane made a similar suggestion when considering the 3 year sentence received by a false claimant in the 1980s (quoted in [Rumney 2006](#)).

In an excellent résumé, [Matthew Scott, the Barrister-Blogger](#), sums it up, "*Despite the magnificent performance of Mr Hayes, a case like this ought to shatter any remaining illusions that the English and Welsh criminal justice system is fit for purpose.*"

There has been no indication that the false accuser is to be prosecuted. Somewhere out there is a woman without conscience who is being protected by the law, protected by guaranteed anonymity. What is there to deter her from making another false accusation, perhaps next time successfully destroying a young man's life? Far fetched? Wait until you read the rest of these case histories. You will see that serial false accusers are not uncommon.

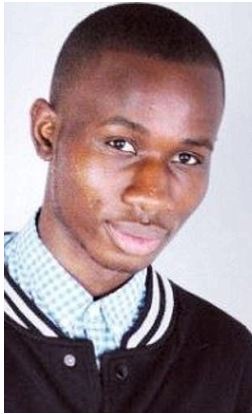
The judge in the Liam Allan case demanded a review of disclosure of evidence by the Metropolitan Police, Britain's biggest force, and called for an inquiry at the "very highest level" of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Regular readers of this blog will know I am no fan of Alison Saunders, the Director of Public Prosecutions. But unfortunately cutting the head off the snake is unlikely to be sufficient. Saunders' predecessor, Keir Starmer, was little better. The rot in the CPS runs deep and will require concerted determination over years or decades to overturn. An institutionalised ideology is not so easily neutralised.

The Metropolitan Police said it would assess [whether it was obeying laws on disclosure](#) in hundreds of potential prosecutions following these well publicised failures. But what about the rest of the country?

Part of this cultural expurgation must include a distancing of police 'training' from lobbies with partisan politics. In that context it is about time that feminism was recognised as a political opinion, not the definition of loveliness.

There are those who will claim that it is not the job of the police to investigate evidence which might assist a defendant. [DefenceBrief.BlogSpot](#), another lawyer's blog, refutes such claims thus, "*such claims are absurd morally, practically and legally. Morally because such a situation would mean that an investigator who spots material that looks like it could lead to material that would prove innocence would be justified in ignoring it and that will always be morally wrong. It is practically wrong because the police as agents of the state hold powers and have resources to investigate not available to individuals. A prime example, is the power to seize telephones as evidence and interrogate them, which is something no defendant can do lawfully for himself.*"

17/2: Isaac Itiary and Anonymous Girl



2017: Close on the heels of the Liam Allan case we had the case of [Isaac Itiary](#), 25, who was accused of sex with a minor (described in the news reports as “rape of a child”, which is technically correct). The defence asked for details of the girl’s text messages months before but they were provided only very late. They showed that she routinely posed as a 19-year-old. Again a case collapsed which should never have been brought at all. Mr Itiary had spent four months in jail awaiting trial. The investigating police officer was the same man in both the Liam Allen and Isaac Itiary cases. However, this is not about a single police officer.

17/3: Samuel Armstrong and Anonymous Woman



2017: A Conservative MP's senior assistant, Samuel Armstrong, 24, was accused of rape in the Houses of Parliament in October 2016. Prior to the verdict being announced [the newspapers were reporting](#) the following. Armstrong was alleged to have attacked the woman, who also worked in Parliament, after drinking with her in the Palace of Westminster. He is said to have taken advantage of his victim, who is in her 20s, when they were alone in his boss's office. The Prosecutor said he raped her twice, adding: 'In doing so, we suggest, he was interested only in himself. 'She, in distress, walked and ran through the corridors of that place, Westminster, eventually finding and telling a member of cleaning staff what had happened. It was suggested that Mr Armstrong "abused his position".

Mr Armstrong denied two counts of rape, one of sexual assault and one of assault by penetration. But a jury of seven women and five men were unanimous in [clearing Mr Armstrong of all charges](#) after a seven day trial. It emerged that the woman, in her 20s, had not wanted to release medical records showing she suffered depression and anxiety. Phone records also revealed that hours after the "attack" she tipped off a tabloid newspaper to try to get a sympathetic account published. The jury rejected prosecution claims that he forced himself twice on the woman.

In the call she made shortly after 2am to the Metropolitan Police Parliamentary Protection Group she sobbed: "Hello, I've just been forced upon. I just had sex and I really, really didn't want to." Mr Armstrong, who repeatedly texted the woman to find out what was the matter and to check whether she had got out safely, told the jury: "I don't understand to this day why within a matter of minutes she got upset." (I think I can guess).

"I was innocent," he said. "Were it not for the fact that *crucial evidence was disclosed to my defence team just eight working days before trial*, there could well have been yet another miscarriage of justice in this case."

17/4: Sheena Boll



2017: [Sheena Boll](#), 35, a teacher at a special needs school, impersonated a 14-year-old girl in order to accuse one of her male colleagues of sexual assault. She called Childline claiming the male teacher sexually assaulted her and showed a "worrying level of personal interest in her" to the point that she avoided him within school. It later emerged that she had a history of making formal complaints to police against employees of organisations and businesses before eventually withdrawing them, telling officers she had reached a private resolution with the subjects of the complaints.

Her innocent victim said *"I felt sick to the stomach, and found the whole experience really stressful. I felt like my reputation had been tarnished, and I was really distressed and even depressed as a result. I care a lot about what people think of me and I love teaching and making a positive impact on young lives."* Boll was found guilty of malicious communications and given a custodial sentence of 11 weeks, suspended for two years and ordered to take part in 200 hours of community service. She was also placed under an overnight curfew with an electronic tag for a month and put under 12 months' supervision by probation. She had already been sacked from the school following her arrest.

17/5: Hannah Stubbs (deceased) and Elgan Varney



2017: Many, many times in compiling this list of cases I have thought “my God, that was surely the worst yet”. Here’s one of those. Whilst we can all enjoy getting mightily indignant about malicious false accusers, there are times when the alleged victim needs protecting – and I don’t mean from the alleged rapist. I mean from the police and the CPS – and from false “friends”. Can I be prosecuted for suggesting that the actions of the police and the CPS drove this young woman to kill herself?

[Hannah Stubbs](#), 22, then a student at university, accused Elgan Varney, 33, of rape in 2014. After making the allegation she became depressed and ultimately killed herself in August 2015. There had been no charge brought against Mr Varney up until that time, and he was only charged with rape in April 2016. Mr Varney was “removed from his attempts at education”, to quote his defence counsel. In March 2017 the CPS announced they were dropping the prosecution because there was no realistic prospect of gaining a conviction. The stock phrase used in these situations is “we have no evidence to present”. In this case it rather belied the fact that there was, and always had been, a mountain of evidence – all of it exculpatory.

After the announcement Mr Varney said, *“The news of Hannah’s death made me physically sick. I cared about her. It was shocking and difficult to process. I was confused, sad and angry all at the same time. I will sadly never know the exact reasons for Hannah’s actions. My anger and frustration is directed at the police and the CPS who have had overwhelming evidence from the outset that no crime was committed.”* He saw the trial as the only chance to clear his name. He had hoped to expose serious flaws, not just in his own case, but in the wider legal system – failings that let down both parties, himself and the vulnerable young woman who accused him and ended up dead.

Why had the CPS not charged Mr Varney by August 2015, for an allegation relating to 2014 when both parties had been interviewed by the police in March 2015? One has to assume it was because they knew there was no realistic prospect of conviction from the start. This is consistent with, though not the same as, Mr Varney’s claim that they had *“overwhelming evidence from the outset that no crime was committed”*. So why did the CPS raise the charge in April 2016, eight months after the young woman’s suicide? What role exactly did the police and the CPS play in her suicide? Did she perhaps come under pressure to continue with her accusation after having doubts herself? Did the CPS decide to charge Mr Varney as a means of deflecting attention from their own culpability?

Let’s take a closer look. And do note that during the hearing the prosecutor said the decision not to continue the prosecution had been taken at the “highest level” of the CPS. Why?

The defending QC described the aborted prosecution as “terribly disturbing and distressing”. He too had been looking forward to the facts of the case coming out at trial. It was, he said, “perhaps an unrivalled case study in how a false allegation can come about”. Indeed, and that, I suggest, is precisely why the CPS played their cards so as to prevent the details emerging.

You see, there was a mountain of evidence in Mr Varney's favour – including thousands of social media messages suggesting there was no assault, information indicating his accuser had serious mental health issues, and even evidence from her computer suggesting the allegations had not only been false but that she had considered withdrawing them.

It was after Mr Varney made it clear he did not want his relationship with Hannah to continue that the complaints were made. And here the story becomes complicated. The full backstory can be read [here](#), from which I have extracted the following (the account opens after Hannah had had a fall at the gym and been taken to hospital),

"Other students joined them at the hospital and one, James (not his real name), drove everyone home after Hannah was given the all-clear at 3am. It was in the course of that evening that Hannah made an allegation of assault, telling James that Elgan had touched her inappropriately. James messaged his friend Michelle (not her real name), who had written in a blog about being raped the previous year.

A few days later Michelle spoke to Hannah. The day after that, Elgan received a disturbing Facebook message. 'Elgan, due to what happened last week when I came over to yours I have decided that I don't want any contact with you,' wrote Hannah. 'I don't feel like you respected me or how I feel. I had been clear with you on the phone that I didn't want things to happen again, and yet you still went ahead.'

Had Hannah written this entirely by herself? Not according to their friend Steven, who had been present when the message was sent, as was Michelle. Indeed, in his witness statement, he talks about the message being 'formulated by Michelle', saying 'it seemed that Hannah had little input into this'. Elsewhere in the statement he says: 'I was shocked by this. I recall that Michelle soon became heavily involved with Hannah and seemed to have a lot of influence over her. I fully believe that [Hannah] was not raped or sexually abused by Elgan,' he concludes.

He was not the only one to think that way. Numerous students were prepared to go to court to speak on Elgan's behalf.

The role of Michelle was significant. She had been with Hannah when she contacted the university authorities with her allegations and it was Michelle who rang the police on Hannah's behalf.

Hannah eventually accused Elgan of raping her on unspecified dates, once in the autumn of 2014 and again in February 2015. There was no forensic evidence of rape. The only evidence against Elgan was in a statement made by Hannah to the police six months before her death, and even this was contradictory and bore no relationship to the allegations she originally confided to university friends.

It is also undermined by more than 10,000 Facebook and WhatsApp messages between them that have now been transcribed and analysed. Seen by The Mail on Sunday, they showed the pair continued to have an amicable relationship after the alleged rapes.

The following evening the pair exchanged a stream of messages, with no mention of a mild disagreement let alone sexual assault. Hannah implored Elgan to come over, clearly struggling with his decision to end their relationship. His replies were polite and the exchange ended on good terms. 'Have a good match tomorrow [smiley face],' she said."

Mr Varney's solicitor was to observe, "If the police had looked at the correspondence they could have arrived at no other conclusion than Hannah wasn't telling the truth".

It also turns out that Hannah had been questioned about previous allegations of rape she had made against another man.

Two weeks before her death, Hannah twice downloaded CPS guidance on perverting the course of justice.

Ye Gods, one despairs.

Another of Mr Varney's solicitors, Anna O'Mara, said: 'I had never before seen a person charged with an offence when there existed such strong evidence pointing to his innocence.' She was further shocked by the manner in which the police conducted their interview of Hannah, when this evidence later emerged. She described it thus: "Hanna initially was reluctant to commit herself to making an allegation against Elgan. This eventually led to the officer pointing out to her what the police would need to prove a case. It was only after Hannah had received prompts from the officer that she hesitantly developed a disjointed allegation against Elgan".

It would appear that the combined actions of her 'friend', "Michelle", together with subtle police pressure, precipitated an allegation which Hannah later regretted – but felt trapped and unable to retract. Was it this, on top of a history of mental illness and suicidal thoughts, that caused her suicide? We will never know for sure, but it seems likely that the existing criminal investigation procedures were hardly Hannah's friend – let alone Mr Varney's.

Where are the wise grandmothers and grandfathers of yesterday who could, calmly but firmly, have got to the truth of these allegations without the heavy handed involvement of Mr Plod and Ms feminist-pseudo-friend?

17/6: Jemma Beale and a Succession of 15 Men



2017: [Jemma Beale](#), 25, claimed she had been seriously sexually assaulted by six men and raped by nine men, all strangers, in four different incidents over a three year period. She was found guilty of four counts of perjury and four counts of perverting the course of justice and was jailed for 10 years. Her claims were so extraordinary that one has to question why she was not stopped sooner. The allegations relate to years 2010 to 2013, but she was convicted and sentenced only in 2017. The timeline of [Beale's allegations](#) were as follows,

26 November 2010: Beale told police she had been raped by one Mr Cassim the previous night. As a result, after two trials Mr Cassim was sentenced to seven years in prison. Beale claimed that "any sentence he received will never reflect the life sentence he gave me". Mr Cassim would serve two years before being released when it was discovered Beale was a liar. They had had consensual sex, initiated by her and including her repeated assurance that she consented. Beale got £11,000 victim compensation. Mr Cassim was released after 2 years inside.

7 July 2012: Beale claimed she had been groped by Noam Shahzad, and later subject to a gang rape by three men in addition to Mr Shahzad. She displayed injuries as evidence. Mr Shahzad jumped bail and fled the country. (Clearly he'd heard about British justice in rape cases). CCTV later showed Mr Shahzad had not assaulted Beale, she had attacked him. CCTV also showed that the claimed multiple rape had not taken place. Forensic evidence showed Beale's injuries were self-inflicted using wire from a hanging flower basket (proved via DNA evidence and the presence of her earring in the basket!). The charges were dropped.

2 September 2013: Beale reported another sexual assault by two men, five days earlier, outside her home. No-one was arrested or charged.

17 November 2013: Beale reported a gang rape 'of the most appalling kind' by four of a group of eight men in the street.. Two men she identified: Luke Williams and Steven McCormack. She claimed they had taken her to a garage and threatened her with a machete. They were arrested and interviewed but never charged.

But all these allegations were just a tissue of lies.

17/7: Hazel Adams

2017: [Hazel Adams](#), 53, 'framed' a man described as 'completely innocent' by accusing him of kidnapping her and sexually assaulting her in a car. She had been due to stand trial at Belfast Crown Court after pleading not guilty to perverting the course of justice. But at the last minute she changed her plea, admitting that she made up the story and filed a false report to police. Instead, Judge Geoffrey Miller QC said that the plea showed Adams accepts that the man she accused is 'completely and utterly innocent of any wrongdoing'.

17/8: Sophie Pointon



2017: [Sophie Pointon](#), 22, a criminology student, made up a false rape claim against a cab driver. She told the lie in revenge when the driver refused to accept a soiled tenner, soaked in oil from a kebab. She was very drunk. Pointon told police officers that she had been sexually assaulted in the back of the cab she had been picked up in after a night out in Leeds city centre. Pointon rang the cops in the early hours then continued the deception by signing a statement giving an account of the attack. The driver, a father-of-five, was tracked down and kept in custody for six hours. He said that Pointon had become very abusive when he'd refused the soiled note, and started running around the cab. He thought little of it at the time, being used to the behaviour of drunks. He was prevented from working for a month while the case was investigated. He was exonerated because a recording of a conversation between himself and the phone operator at his taxi office supported his account. Also, a GPS tracker fitted to the cab revealed Pointon's description of the taxi journey to be untrue. Pointon was jailed for 16 months.

17/9: George Owen and Anonymous Woman



2017: [George Owen](#), 21, was under investigation for two years after a woman student, now 20, said he forced himself on her in an alley. The woman made the report a year after the alleged event after spotting Mr Owen by chance in a pub. He was charged with rape, attempted rape and sexual assault. He testified to police that she initiated sex and that it was drunken but consensual. Mr Owen was cleared by a jury after the woman's Facebook messages were revealed.

17/10: Joshua Lines and Anonymous Woman



2017: [Joshua Lines](#), 23 at trial, spent the night with a woman of the same age after spending the evening with her drinking beer and Prosecco at a student house party three years ago. The pair fell asleep together whilst watching the Disney movie *Lady and the Tramp* but she claimed she woke up several hours later to find herself on top of Mr Lines with her pyjama bottoms pulled down and he having sex with her. She said she fled in tears to her en-suite bathroom and locked herself inside for several hours until she was sure he had left the room. When Mr Lines tried to speak to her later on Facebook message, asking her 'What's happened', she replied: 'I don't want anything to do with you.' Mr Lines was arrested and charged with rape. He faced three years with this charge hanging over him.

Mr Lines and the woman had been friends for three years prior to the alleged incident, but whilst he was attracted to her, she said she didn't share his feelings and the relationship was purely platonic. Mr Lines testified as follows: 'When we were walking back to the flat we were both stumbling, and I had to hold her up. I felt drunk. She wasn't paralytic but she stumbled a little and I had to put my hand on her shoulder. When we got back to her flat I said I would sleep in the bath and she said: "Don't be silly" and so it was her idea for me to sleep in the bed. 'We had slept in the same bed before and I thought it was fine so I took my jeans off and was wearing my t-shirt and boxer shorts. She changed into her pyjamas. When the film was put on I began to feel funny and the room was spinning – she was a bit tipsy too. I then fell asleep and when I woke up she had her head on my chest. I tried to move her out of the way but she was draped over me with her legs either side. I left to be sick and ended up in the basement. I don't believe I could have done what she said I did because of the logistics of it. She woke up on top of me with her legs either side, how would I get her there?'

A medical examination carried out on the woman several days after the incident showed no traces of Mr Lines' DNA. There were two trials in which the jury failed to reach a verdict in both cases. The prosecutor offered no evidence for a third trial and Mr Lines was formally cleared of the rape charge.

17/11: Alastair Cooke and Anonymous Woman



2017: [Alastair Cooke](#), 22, was the third Durham university student to be charged, but cleared, of rape in one year. It was yet another case of students having drunken sex with a difference of opinion after the event regarding consent. Whilst under investigation, Mr Cooke was banned from going into Durham except to go to court. The jury at trial failed to reach a verdict, and the prosecution later decided not to pursue the case further with the agreement of the complainant (who has returned to her home abroad).

17/12: Gerald Laryea and Anonymous Woman



2017: [Gerald Laryea](#), 25, an analyst with accounting firm Deloitte, was accused of raping a 21-year-old Cambridge University student in the back of a taxi. The woman had claimed that she was too drunk to consent and that she had been 'drifting in and out of consciousness' as Laryea, then 23, forced himself on her. But urine samples taken from the woman by a police officer between 11 and 12 hours after the taxi journey revealed no trace of alcohol, the court was told. The defence counsel argued "I'm suggesting she wasn't blind drunk. She wasn't drifting in and out of consciousness in the back of that taxi. Evidence points away from that claim. Can you be sure she didn't simply regret what had happened?" It also emerged that earlier in the evening the pair had bumped into Mr Laryea's mother, who told the pair to calm down. The alleged victim is said to have commented: 'She's jealous. We're going to have babies.' After a week-long trial, the jury took less than two hours to clear Mr Layrea of rape and sexual assault.

17/13: Lewis Tappenden and Anonymous Woman



2017: The accuser accepted that she took [Lewis Tappenden](#), 24, home for sex and that the pair took off their clothes and got into bed. She had been drinking. She alleged that “something just clicked” and she realised that she did not want to go through with it. Mr Tappenden claimed she had been willing throughout and that everything happened with her consent. Yes, another one of those cases.

The accuser’s flatmates told police the accuser had been upset because a relationship she had with a man at home had not become as “official” as she had hoped. The flatmate said: “She said that night that she was going to pull, I assume that meant she was going to bring someone back.” On their way back from the club, the two stopped in a gaming arcade and she told him: “I don’t want a relationship afterwards, I just want to fuck you.” But in court she claimed “I don’t remember the exact words but I said no. I told him I didn’t want anything to happen. He quite forcefully entered me. He pinned me down by my chest with his hands. I was really scared and it was quite painful.”

The jury saw footage of Tappenden and the student smiling together and kissing in a lift.

The Judge told the jury: “You must consider whether it is as the prosecution say that you can be sure sexual acts were taking place with consent and then she, as she is undoubtedly entitled to do, withdrew that consent, causing the defendant to become violent. Or is this a re-writing of history? A complainant who has engaged in sexual activity with Mr Tappenden but changed her mind afterwards, not during?” The jury decided the latter, clearing Mr Tappenden of both alleged counts of rape.

Emma Rance, defending, said the case should serve as a “warning to every man who goes back to a woman’s room for a one-night stand and the repercussions when that woman later regrets it”. See also [this article](#).

17/14: Halina Khan and a Policeman



2017: [Halina Khan](#), 40, claimed that she had been sexually assaulted by a police officer despite never having met him. Her victim was at home with his wife and son when his own colleagues turned up at his home to say there had been a complaint made against him. The policeman was investigated for five weeks, suffering the usual indignities in these circumstances, e.g., having to provide samples for analysis, etc. The policeman was off work for 6 months with depression and anxiety. He expressed surprise at how badly affected he had been by the experience. He has now returned to work but says it has affected his relationship with his employers (well, it would).

Khan had contacted the police about an alleged car theft. She was an 'escort' and claimed her client had taken the car. But Khan herself was arrested when she pointed out a red mark on the floor and said the client had been injured. She then started racially abusing the policemen and it was then she claimed that she had been raped by a detective the previous night at the hotel. She used his name, despite never having met him, because he had previously been involved in an investigation into her second ex-husband over drugs offences.

The CPS carefully assessed evidence of Khan's actions and, as the allegation was found to be completely groundless, authorised charges of perverting the course of justice. The CPS presented evidence to the court that Halina Khan made the allegation and [then failed to take the opportunity to stop the investigation](#).

Khan had two previous convictions for incidents of racially abusing police officers. She had a drink problem and had consumed at least one bottle of vodka before making the false rape claim. Khan was jailed for two years and three months after admitting to trying to pervert the course of justice.

The falsely accused policeman tellingly observed, 'If I hadn't been able to prove my innocence, I'd have lost my liberty.' Khan has been jailed for two years and 3 months.

17/15: Valentin Krzyzyk and Anonymous Woman



2017: [Valentin Krzyzyk](#), 26, was accused of grabbing a woman's bottom in an expensive London club. His defence lawyers repeatedly requested copies of security camera footage from inside the nightclub but it was not handed over until the first day of Mr Krzyzyk's trial for sexual assault despite the alleged offence being a year earlier. Mr Krzyzyk's defence barrister watched the five hours of footage and confirmed that it did not support the woman's account. The prosecution admitted that they had not watched the video but said they had been assured by police that it contained nothing of interest to the defence. Is this beginning to sound very familiar? Mr Krzyzyk was cleared of the charge. The Judge ordered an inquiry into the reprehensible late delivery of the CCTV footage and said that only the defence counsel's persistence had prevented a serious risk of injustice. How many times has that happened recently, too? This is yet another very recent case in which key exculpatory evidence was very late in being handed over to the defence. In this case, however, the prosecution was intending to use the CCTV footage in question and the problem was not a failure to disclose the evidence by the police, but a failure by the Prosecution/CPS to serve their case.

The disconcerting thing about this is that a suspicious person might think the very late delivery of the lengthy footage to the defence was a tactic to frustrate the defence team from discovering that it exploded the prosecution case. Almost as if the prosecution were attempting to achieve a conviction irrespective of the truth. And, once again, we see that the burden of proof has shifted squarely to the defendant: Ms Narita Bahra, defence counsel, said that she believed Mr Krzyzyk would have been convicted if she had not secured the footage. Yes, the absence of evidence to the contrary is taken as sufficient to convict.

The woman had complained to police a month after the alleged incident apparently because her boyfriend was being investigated over an attack on Mr Krzyzyk. Mr Krzyzyk had spent a year on bail, during which he was subject to a curfew and had to wear an electronic tag. There has been no indication that the false accuser will be prosecuted.

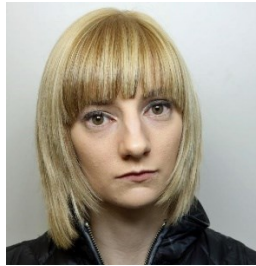
17/16: Samantha Murray-Evans and Paul Morgan



2017: [Samantha Murray-Evans](#), 44, met policeman Paul Morgan on a dating web site. They had dated for around 6 weeks. They had sex in Mr Morgan's house. The following day she returned to his house, but he did not want a continuing relationship and ultimately asked her to leave. Murray-Evans felt spurned by the officer and she then went to the police and accused him of ripping her clothes off and raping her. Mr Morgan was arrested at his home in the middle of the night by his own colleagues. Seven officers came to his house and shone a torch in his face. The Detective Constable who arrested him had previously given him a bravery award for saving a boy in a river. Mr Morgan was suspended from duty for five weeks while the allegations were investigated, until the decision was made that no further action would be taken. Mr Morgan was severely traumatised by the turn of events and seriously debated suicide. He may well have been convicted of rape were it not for the discovery of WhatsApp messages with sexual content and intimate images sent by Murray-Evans after their one-night stand.

Despite the overwhelming evidence against Murray-Evans, the investigating officers did not bring a case against her for falsely crying rape until Mr Morgan insisted upon it. Two years elapsed before they took any further action against her. Mr Morgan said, "I didn't care about her sentence. I cared that finally someone was telling her she'd been deceitful and callous and I hadn't done anything wrong." Murray-Evans was jailed for 27 months.

17/17: Rebecca Palmer



2017: [Rebecca Palmer](#), 26, falsely accused a 22 year old soldier of rape and was found guilty of four allegations of perverting the course of justice after a nine day trial. She had earlier admitted five offences of malicious communications and three more of perverting the course of justice, but she nevertheless maintained her not guilty plea to making the false allegation of rape. She was jailed for five years. The prosecutor said: “Rebecca Palmer indulged in consensual sexual activity with the victim, but on being rejected by him embarked on a malicious campaign which led to him being arrested on more than one occasion and held in custody for periods of time. She repeatedly made false allegations, including that of an allegation of rape, and sent malicious communications to both the victim and members of his family.” At one point she claimed she had been pregnant but had lost the baby during a purported suicide attempt. She invented fake friend profiles and produced faked correspondence hoping that these would be accepted as supportive evidence of her false claims. She also falsely claimed that the soldier had taken revenge on her by posting intimate pictures of her on Facebook.

17/18: Vjekoslav Dvorak and Anonymous Girl

2017: 63-year-old [Vjekoslav Dvorak](#) was described as an ‘inspirational’ music teacher. (Pictures show a guitar, but I’m not sure whether Mr Dvorak taught guitar). He was accused of sexual assault ‘by touching’ of a former pupil. The judge, Sylvia de Bertodano, strongly criticised the decision to prosecute saying she was quite sure no jury in the land would have convicted Mr Dvorak, that the case should never have come to trial, there is nothing in it at all, and that it was also damaging for the child.

The Prosecutor said: “The allegations concern matters when she was 12-15. She says various things happened to her in the course of those music lessons. She says there were various instances, such as kissing her on the top of her head and hugging her. She described feeling confused.” That’s all I know about the allegations (Great God, is this what counts as sexual assault now – any physical manifestation of affection by a male?). Mr Dvorak said that as a music teacher it was sometimes necessary to touch pupils to guide them, but he emphatically denied any wrong-doing.

If you were a (male) music teacher, would you be happy to continue take female pupils? (see also Wen Zhou).

17/19: Iain Wiseman and Anonymous Girl



2017: [Iain Wiseman](#), 37, had been facing allegations made by a 13-year-old girl that he had kissed her on the neck three times over a three month period. Disabled Mr Wiseman endured nine months of hell with people threatening to kill him. On a previous occasion Mr Wiseman had been hailed a hero for saving a girl from choking at McDonald's. Mr Wiseman has full custody of his one-year-old daughter and feared he might have his child taken off him as a result of the claims. He has suffered death threats in his community. But the case was dropped three days before the trial was scheduled because the Crown Prosecution Service could offer no evidence against him. Mr Wiseman said it all started last summer. He claims the girl had sent him messages on social media telling him he was a great guy and how amazing she thought he was, two days after the first incident allegedly happened. As soon as he was arrested he gave the police his phone and all his passwords and showed them the messages that contradicted the allegations.

17/20: Danny Kay and Anonymous Woman



2017: [Danny Kay](#), 26, spent four years in jail for a rape he did not commit. He was arrested at the airport after returning from holiday in the presence of his new girlfriend and her family. For 26 hours, Mr Kay was held in custody and interrogated by officers. He refuted the rape allegations in the strongest terms. Mr Kay's sister-in-law took only a minute to uncover a series of crucial Facebook messages that proved his innocence. The police had missed the key messages because they didn't know how to retrieve archived versions: the accuser had deleted them. So, when Danny Kay was convicted in 2013, the court was only shown doctored transcripts of these crucial Facebook chats between Mr Kay and his accuser. By the time his sister-in-law had uncovered the original messages, Mr Kay had spent three months in jail. But it would be another three years before his conviction was overturned – such is the speed of our lovely justice system when it has cocked up. The Appeal Court finally heard that the police had relied on an 'edited and misleading' account of the Facebook conversation that was given to them by the complainant in the weeks after she claimed she was raped by Mr Kay.

Mr Kay reasonably asks, 'Why didn't the police check my Facebook account when they had my laptop and login details right from the start? Why did it take my sister-in-law to find the evidence? This isn't some small matter, this is my life and for the police not to do those basic checks is horrendous.' Indeed. And multiply that by – how many cases of similar derelictions of duty –

hundreds, or thousands? He added, “Looking back, I kick myself for trusting a system that betrayed me. I’d just like to know why she lied. Why the police didn’t investigate properly. They’ve just taken her word for it. She might as well have written it on a piece of toilet paper and said, “There’s the conversation between us.”

One of the messages was doctored by his accuser to make it seem as if Mr Kay had lied about his age. In truth, Mr Kay had asked the girl how old she is, to which she replies: ‘Nearly 17.’ He then asks if she’s single and she replies ‘yep’. He says: ‘Same here.’ Yet in the messages shown to the jury, the second question, about being single, had been deleted, making it appear as if the reply ‘Same here’ relates to him also being 17. Devious, no?

More damning are the numerous messages sent after the alleged rape that were deleted by his accuser. In one, Mr Kay asks for her number because he’d lost it. Not only does she readily supply it, she accompanies it with four kisses. His accuser says: *‘im still here for ya!’* And in a separate message, after the pair had split up, she says: *‘I thought u woulda at least tried to get me back.’*

Another message had been modified so that a response ‘sorry’ from Mr Kay could be construed as relating to the alleged rape. In fact, it was a response to the woman asking him why he was ignoring her. Also omitted from the version presented to the jury was her response: *‘Dnt [sic] be.’*

It was six months before his accuser filed a complaint to the police. There has been no indication to date that his accuser will be prosecuted, despite the clear evidence that she tampered with evidence deliberately to pervert the course of justice, and was callously indifferent to Mr Kay being unjustly imprisoned.

17/21: Shaun Carter and Anonymous Girl

2017: [Shaun Carter](#), 35, was accused of rape by a girl who claimed Carter had attacked her when she was “stoned” after smoking cannabis. She said she was pushed against a washing machine and raped. However Mr Carter was cleared of the charge. He had shown police texts from the girl stating that she would accuse him of rape if he did not give her father his car or a large sum of money. It also transpired that Mr Carter’s accuser had made more than 500 anonymous calls to an ex-partner and his new partner using a voice distortion device. The girl had also made claims her mother and father had assaulted her and she had been given a police caution for making false representations to buy mobile phone credit.

17/22: Frank Fulker and Anonymous Woman



2017: [Frank Fulker](#), now 72, had back seat sex with a woman in his car 30 years ago. He was not expecting detectives to call and accuse him of having raped the woman all those years ago. It was the start of a four-year ordeal that would shatter his life and that of his family, threaten him with jail and destroy for ever his faith in Britain's system of criminal justice. Mr Fulker had given the woman a lift home. She had suddenly begun telling him intimate details about her marital life. He said, *'As she was saying these things, she was giggling, then touching me on the leg, really coming on to me.'* They drove to a dark lane and had sex on the back seat. It emerged in court that the complainant had given Mr Fulker a condom. The complainant claimed that the deed had taken place in a black Range Rover but Mr Fulker had a silver Rover 2.6 at the time.

It was also revealed that at the time she made the allegation the complainant was suffering from a psychiatric condition and was delusional. You might have thought that the following previous claims were pertinent. She had claimed that Mr Frank had once had sex with an 'aborigine woman' on holiday in South Africa behind a bush. She had also claimed to the police that she recalled being in a playhouse in the garden where 'people were having sex with her'. And yet despite these odd claims, there was a note from the investigating officer, Detective Constable Parkinson, in the police file, which reads, in capitals, "THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REFERENCE [in medical records] TO ANY EVENT WHICH COULD BE RELATED TO THIS REPORT OF ASSULT [sic]." The detective's log continued: 'The letter also stated her M/H [mental health] issues is of a relatively recent onset. She had no M/H illness prior to 2012 when she initially reported vague symptoms such as difficulty distinguishing reality.'

Mr Fulker was cleared by a unanimous jury of six men and six women after just two hours of deliberation. Mr Fulker is furious at the treatment he and his wife have suffered, and scathing about the police's insistence that the 'victim' must be believed, however flawed their story. He made a complaint against Detective Constable Parkinson but it was ruled there was no misconduct.

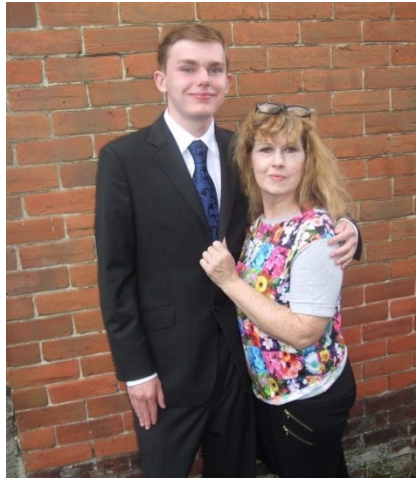
17/23: Reverend Dr Roy Catchpole and Anonymous Woman

2017: The [Reverend Dr Roy Catchpole](#) (now 71 and retired) was arrested at his home in 2014 after being accused of sexually assaulting a female member of his congregation. He spent two years under suspicion. As part of his bail conditions, Mr Catchpole was prohibited from attending his church, either as a priest or as a member of the congregation. If he wished to worship elsewhere he had to agree to a humiliating monitoring procedure by a group of church people and the vicar of the parish. Any close proximity to a female in church had to be reported. He had to arrive at the church not earlier than ten minutes before the service, and not remain more than ten minutes after the end. Everybody knew about these conditions. It was deeply humiliating. To make it worse he was abandoned and alienated by clergy colleagues.

At a first trial the jury failed to reach a verdict. ***After a more thorough investigation by the police***, it was declared there was no evidence to bring against him. He was offered an apology by the judge and awarded costs. The judge set him free as an innocent, falsely accused person. Mr Catchpole's barrister stated in a legal note: *"It would be wrong to suggest that the history of the case – and the defendant's acquittal after the Crown offered no evidence against him – allows for any suggestion at all that he may have behaved in any way improperly or inappropriately towards the complainant. It does not."*

Since his exoneration, Mr Catchpole has indicated that no longer wishes to represent either the Church of England or the Methodist Church, for whom he had served as an associate minister. He said: "There are many of us in this position, whose lives are being ruined and who will never recover. Even though you are innocent, it will wreck your life, separate your family, make you unemployed and unemployable. Tarnish you on the internet and in the local and national press. It may even result in your murder. It has happened before. The lying tongue is a powerful weapon." Mr Catchpole has called for a change in British culture regarding how sex cases are reported, including a more careful use of terminology.

16/1: Jay Cheshire (deceased), Karin Cheshire (deceased) and Anonymous Girl



2016: Jay Cheshire, 17, was a sixth form student, described as quiet but mature and well-liked, though with a history of depression. He was on antidepressants and had had a psychiatrist since the age of 13 although he was regarded as much improved just prior to his death. In 2015 he was accused of rape by a fellow student, who remains anonymous. Such allegations shake the sternest man to the core, and Jay was not that. He was traumatised. The alleged victim withdrew the accusation after two weeks – but according to [this report](#) Jay was under investigation for seven weeks.,

Jay was taken away at night by the police and strip-searched. They took his clothes to do tests on. In the middle of his exams, this sensitive lad found the whole experience of being publicly branded a rapist more than he could cope with. He was found hanging from a tree in a local park. Both relatives and the coroner expressed the view that the rape accusation was a major factor in Jay's suicide.

Jay's mother, Karin Cheshire, believed police mishandled the case and wanted an investigation. She fell into a deep depression and, Simon said, saw no future without her son. Karin ended up being 'sectioned' and spent six months in hospital. She was in and out of different hospitals. She was struggling. Relatives invited her to stay with them, but she refused. She fell into a deep depression. In July 2016 [Karin was found dead by hanging](#) at her home just a few days after the anniversary of her son's death in the same manner. A double suicide caused by a rape accusation that has never been examined, merely withdrawn.

16/2: Anonymous Boy and Anonymous Girl - 1

2016: [The boy was 12](#) when he lost his virginity and was subsequently accused of rape by a 13 year old girl. He had been at a sleep-over at a friend's house. The boy was a first rate pupil, getting top grades, and had not previously been in trouble. He was arrested by police in his pyjamas and placed in an adult cell. He was later joined in the adjoining cell by adult male prisoners. He had to give a semen sample, a DNA sample, a sample of public hair and had his finger prints taken. (Personally I would have been physically incapable of obliging on the first of these when I was 12). He was finally released in the middle of the night. His Mum took him home and put him to bed. But he had to return at 10:00 the next morning to be 'interviewed'.

Upon being accused the boy was thrown out of school and forbidden to be around females under the age of 16 – despite being 12 himself. His mother's entire world collapsed as she realised that 'guilty until proven innocent' was the order of the day. She would get no assistance from police or the social services.

It took 14 months for the trial to be held, a trial which lasted four days! We hear a great deal about grown women in rape trials having to be protected from the trauma of a court appearance by being allowed to give evidence by video. But subjecting this (now 13 year old) to four days of trial in which his life was in the balance – any comment from the rape activists on that at all? Of course not – because he is of the sex which deserves the worst the world can throw at him. And, remember, there is no such thing as an innocent male, of any age.

For God's sake why did the trial last four days when his accuser admitted in court that the sex between them was consensual and she had said it was rape so her boyfriend would not be angry that she had had sex with someone else?

The boy was acquitted in 2016 and left the court in tears. He had lost a year of schooling and felt so stigmatised that he preferred to move to the other end of the country to start a new life afresh, living with his father.

A woman police officer compassionately commented after the case, "It is not uncommon for a child to be placed in a cell for a serious crime, as the age of legal responsibility is 10. It is not unusual for us not to tell an adult prior to a child's arrest what the child is being arrested for. This is to protect the integrity of the investigation."

This case reminds me of a caller to James O'Brien's programme on LBC radio (unfortunately it is no longer online). A mother told the story of her 12 year old autistic son who had been accused of rape by a 15 year old girl. He too was carted away by the police to a cell, to his mother's great distress and amazement. The girl eventually admitted that she'd made it up to punish the boy for refusing to take her to the cinema.

This is what feminism looks like.

16/3: Layla Ibrahim and Four Males



2016: In 2011 Layla Ibrahim was sent to prison for three years for a false rape allegation despite being seven months pregnant. It is interesting to contrast the accounts of this case in [the Guardian](#) with those in the [Daily Mail](#) and the [Independent](#). As of November 2016, by then long released from prison and a mother of three, Ibrahim was still [attempting to clear her name](#), though while she was inside her lawyer advised against an appeal because there was no new evidence.

Ibrahim, then 22, alleged that she had been attacked while walking home alone at night after a disagreement with friends. A major police investigation involving 40 police officers led to the arrest of four innocent “men” – though two were under 16. The suspects were held in custody for a total of more than 60 hours during which time they were subject to what the judge described as “extremely distressing examinations of their genitalia”. He added “one was so upset he attempted self-harm”. Even the doctor in the case described the examinations as ‘intimate, embarrassing and uncomfortable’. A senior police source said the four were still ‘really struggling’ with the aftermath of the case. Doubts about Ibrahim’s story began to emerge when a pair of scissors carrying only fibres of her own clothing were found near to the scene of the so-called attack.

The judge referred to Ibrahim as an “irresponsible and wicked” woman saying she had been dishonest from “first to last”. He summarised the case as follows: “*Your behaviour throughout these proceedings has been irresponsible in the extreme and many would say wicked. You went to great lengths to make out an attack had taken place. You tore up your clothing, and cut your own body with a pair of scissors. You feigned illness and injury. When internally examined there was nothing wrong with you. It is entirely clear in this case you craved attention and you wanted your friends who had left you that night to know you were the subject of a serious sex attack. You wanted to teach them a lesson. You are extremely immature.*” [The Guardian](#)’s account takes the line that this was a miscarriage of justice, and the alleged rape was real.

16/4: Louis Richardson and Two Anonymous Women



2016: [Louis Richardson](#), a 21 year old Durham University student, was cleared of rape of one woman and sexual assault of another following a six-day trial. After the initial rape allegation was made, he was suspended from his studies and also forced to step down from his position as Secretary of the prestigious Union Society. Several months later, two university newspapers revealed he had been arrested, and a second woman then claimed to police that he had indecently assaulted her by stroking her indecently. Richardson, who was debating politics with others in the room at the time, admitted to police he 'probably touched her on the breast', but said the woman – a student at another university – had moved his hand there.

In relation to the rape charge Richardson told the court: "I knew I had not raped her. I knew she knew I had not raped her." But the prosecuting council said Richardson was a "creepy" opportunist who forced himself on two young women who were unconscious and incapable of defending themselves. (I don't think there was any evidence that the women were unconscious). The defending council, Philippa McAtasney QC, described the alleged rape victim thus: "She is the queen of mixed messages you may think, the queen of contradiction you may think." She pointed to the fact that after the alleged rape on the woman sent Richardson pictures of her naked breasts, flirted with him in Facebook messages, offered to let him spank her and sent another photograph of herself in a short dress dancing "like a lap dancer on a pole". She also went on a double date with Richardson and two other students as a couple after the alleged rape.

Ms McAtasney added "She is an admitted and prolific liar. She admitted she had lied to her parents, she had lied to her lecturers, she lied to her friends, she lied to Louis Richardson and she lied to her boyfriend. You may wonder when you consider that list who she did not lie to. She told her counsellor she developed a pattern of lying in order to keep up with the crowd and appear one better than them. She is a highly manipulative young lady and you may think on the evidence that she uses people, she is attention seeking and she lies when it suits her purpose. She is a dishonest, dangerous young woman. She was using Louis. "

16/5: Graeme Stening and Anonymous Female QC



2016: [Graeme Stening](#), a senior City lawyer, was "allegedly exposed and touching himself - and the woman - in an intimate fashion" during the evening rush hour outside London's Waterloo station. Both were arrested and spent the night in a police cell. The following morning, Stening denied any wrongdoing but was charged with outraging public decency by engaging in a sexual act in public. The woman, a QC and high-profile barrister, accepted a police caution for the same offence as the man. But six weeks later the woman changed her story. She wished to retract her acceptance of the caution, on the grounds that she was not well. She now claimed that she had been sexually assaulted by the man because, being drunk, she was not capable of consent. In other words, she decided to stitch up Mr Stening as a means of preserving her anonymity and protecting her name, reputation and career. Police spent 8 months investigating the case against Stening but eventually dropped it for lack of evidence. [There were calls](#) for the female QC to be charged for attempting to pervert the course of justice - outcome unknown. But this case is concerning for two reasons: firstly because it is clearly demonstrates the inequity of being able to claim anonymity based entirely on sex, and secondly because it has the "[whiff of potential power corrupting the process of justice](#)".

16/6: Thady Duff, Leo Mahon, Patrick Foster, James Martin and Anonymous Woman



2016: [Thady Duff, Leo Mahon and Patrick Foster, all 22, and James Martin, 20](#), all students at an agricultural college, had denied charges of rape and sexual assault. The quartet had been arrested after a group sex session at a student ball. They complained that the police had treated them as 'guilty until proven innocent'. The background 'mood music' to this case is that the college in question is noted for its wealthy students, generally being sons and daughters of wealthy local landowners. This is a factor which might bias some against the young men as being (in this case genuinely) privileged. The likelihood is that the woman in question is equally privileged. The woman had been prompted to make the claim because the group sex session had been videoed (described as 'pornographic') and shared on social media. It would seem that the woman wished to avoid the taint of her behaviour by claiming it was non-consensual.

Defence barrister Edward Henry accused officers of 'airbrushing' and 'cherry-picking' evidence to support their case, while 'airbrushing' out anything that suggested the men were innocent. He said there should be a review. Other lawyers alleged **evidence had been withheld by officers** before the trial. This included messages taken from the victim's phone hinting that she may have consented.

The case against them fell apart after it emerged that the alleged victim had given 'different accounts' as a witness in another rape case (alleged to have occurred on an Army base in 2014, but the accused soldier was cleared). Defence barristers acting for the four men argued the case demonstrated the woman's interest in group sex and demanded to know why they had not been told about it.

16/7: Wen Zhou Li and Anonymous Woman



2016: [Wen Zhou Li](#) had been a violin teacher at a renowned music school for 20 years when he was accused of sexual assault by a former female pupil. Immediately the accusation was made, social services took away Wen Zhou's two sons, aged 5 and 8, from the family home. It took over three years to clear his name. During the nightmare he said "I now understand why people kill themselves". He was suspended from his job and from the Royal National College of Music while being investigated. He had to go to court twice to retrieve his sons, despite being known to all, not only as a man of exceptional expertise as a teacher, but as outstandingly honourable. There were representations from dozens of people from all around the world, many former pupils, as to his unimpeachable character. While Zhou's life was shattered for years, leaving him permanently psychologically impaired, his accuser could go about her daily life carefree and secure in lifelong anonymity. Zhou has been left frightened to touch his pupils – something of a problem in teaching a physical skill. It is unclear if he will ever teach again. And he was unable to enjoy music anymore.

The fact that the case against him was so weak made it all the more egregious. Wen Zhou's accuser had asked to be allowed to return to study under him, which she did for a number of years **after** the alleged incident was claimed to have taken place. Even her parents asked Wen Zhou to accept her as a pupil again. The charge was withdrawn in March after it emerged that the complainant had made allegations against another teacher in another country, but that no charges had been brought. Nor have they in this case. (There have, however, been a string of successful prosecutions for historic sex offences at the same music school).

16/8: Wendy Wilson and Two Non-Existent Men

2016: A 62-year-old [Wendy Wilson](#) was jailed for six months after making a false rape claim and attempting an insurance fiddle. She claimed two men had broken into her home and violently attacked her before raping her. Police spent two months investigating, including comprehensive house-to-house and forensic work. Initially Wilson said the men had stolen nothing – but then changed her mind and made a £6,000 insurance loss claim.

16/9: Claire Emma Carr

2016: [Claire Emma Carr](#), 20, was jailed for 12 weeks after she admitted falsely claiming a taxi driver sexually assaulted her. The falsely accused driver said he could have lost everything if he did not have CCTV in his vehicle – which proved she was telling lies. The woman had been a perfectly normal paying passenger. There had been absolutely no incident at all. But the next day the taxi driver, who has worked in the same city for 25 years, had a knock on his door from a police officer who told him there had been an allegation of sexual assault. Fortunately the taxi's CCTV showed that nothing had happened. There appeared to be absolutely no reason for the allegation. Taxi drivers these days would be very foolish not to have CCTV fitted.

16/10: Astria Berwick and Mohammed Asif



2016: Mohammed Asif was a taxi driver whose CCTV had broken. Oh dear. Fortunately, though, he was using his mobile to voice record when [Astria Berwick](#), 27, was in his cab. She seemed like just another passenger, nothing untoward happened. Yet she called the police to say he had sexually assaulted her and slashed her face with a knife. The judge said that Mr Asif had been 'saved' by his mobile recording, which proved she was lying. But wait up. The judge seems to be implying that, had Mr Asif not had the means to prove his innocence then he would have gone to prison. The judge has, perhaps unintentionally, confirmed that in cases of sexual assault, a man has to provide the wherewithal to prove his innocence – otherwise its prison for him. Mr Asif said: "She changed my life. I'm completely different now. I'm scared to go out. If I ever met her again, although I don't want to, I'd just ask 'why?'". I doubt she'd have a coherent answer, Mr Asif. Accusing you was probably done as casually as one swats a fly without even being entirely conscious of it. The answer lies in her perception of your utter insignificance.

16/11: Danny Day and David Bryant

2016: It is not only women who make false allegations of rape. Danny Day falsely accused fire chief David Bryant of non-consensual, forced buggery at a fire station 35 years ago when Day was a boy of 14. It appears he made the allegation to extort money. In 2013, at age 63, Mr Bryant was convicted and sentenced to eight and a half years, essentially just on Mr Day's word. Danny Day received about £50,000 as a victim of crime through the taxpayer-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. After the trial he also began a £200,000 civil claim against the Bryants and Dorset County Council.

Mr Bryant would be in prison still if it weren't for his wife pursuing the case further. As you will see from this compendium of case histories, the accused must prove his innocence, including the gathering of evidence supporting his innocence. The police will not do so. Mrs Bryant discovered flaws in the Day's story which the police had overlooked. In addition, the police had failed to obtain medical records that showed Mr Day had repeatedly sought treatment from his GP for being a "chronic liar" over a 10-year period between 2000 and 2010.

After more than 3 years inside, Mr Bryant's conviction was quashed and he was freed. This could happen to any decent citizen," said Mr Bryant. "That is the frightening thing about it. Somebody has made an absolutely ludicrous allegation and the police have run with it."

16/12: Two Anonymous Girls

2016: [A girl aged 13](#) claimed a man on a bike had tried to sexually assault her while she was out walking with another 12 year old girl. The police issued an image of a man on a bike, and the man in question came forward to clear his name. The girls admitted they had made it up. As punishment they were required to write a letter of apology to the man. What is concerning about this is that it is symptomatic of how men have been vilified that two young girls would think of doing such a thing – presumably confident they would get away with it.

16/13: Amanda Hayes and Non-Existent Man

2016: [Amanda Hayes](#), aged 26, gave a graphic account of being raped by a man wearing a hoodie in the early hours. This sparked a needless six-week long pursuit for a rapist in the area, which included police making 30 separate house calls. But later, asked simply if she was really raped, Ms Hayes replied "no". Asked why she reported the rape, she replied: "I don't know why I said that, I really don't. I am sorry for what I said." At her court hearing her defence lawyer said Ms Hayes's false allegation was borne out of addiction rather than malice and that she did not make a complaint against any named individual. She was sentenced to the three years, but the final 18 months are suspended so with parole she will serve 9 months.

16/14: Kato Harris and Anonymous Girl



2016: [Kato Harris](#), 37, was the head of geography and assistant head at a private girls' school when he was accused of attacking a teenager three times after inviting her to stay in the classroom during the lunch break for chats. He insisted it was 'completely impossible' to have carried out the attacks as staff and students could see into the room and the door would have been open during the lunch break. He was suspended from his job when the allegations were made. But a jury of seven men and five women took just 26 minutes to clear Harris of three counts of rape. Harris wept and sank to his knees as the verdicts were read out.

The girl had apparently been unhappy, been the subject of bullying, had an eating disorder and was prone to panic attacks. Her wealthy parents regularly sent her to the United States for psychotherapy.

Rather worryingly, the Daily Mail account seems to imply that one of the other teachers might have put the idea of sexual assault into the girl's head: *"the house mistress told the girl she suspected sexual abuse, the teenager replied: Maybe...She wanted to tell her about it, but couldn't speak. The teacher told her she would leave the room, and that she should write it down. When she came back in, the teacher was handed a piece of paper with three words on it 'I was raped'"*. Perhaps it is not only the pupils which make teaching an hazardous occupation for men now, but also the female staff, perhaps with ideological motivations?

Adding to worry about how the cards were being stacked against Mr Harris, the girl's family brought in ex-Deputy Assistant Commissioner Sue Akers - who spent 36 years with the Metropolitan Police - as a private investigator who sought to guide officers on how to conduct the case. It is very unusual for such a former high ranking officer to be involved in this way. Mr Harris has since stated publicly that he believe Akers used her contacts and clout to coerce police officers to behave improperly in [this interview](#). In it he also states that police deliberately contrived to prevent two key witnesses for the defence from being heard.

Kato Harris spent his life savings of £10,000 but has a debt of £195,000 for legal costs for his defence. (I believe he has received monies to offset most of that bill now). Total financial obliteration having done absolutely nothing wrong, when the case should never even come to court. Who are the winners? The lawyers, of course, as always. The case itself [cost the taxpayer nearly £1M](#).

One of the saddest things for me is that Mr Harris still does see the big picture, he does not understand the true source of his victimisation. Outside court he repeated the usual feminist line: *'It is my sincere wish that this extraordinary case does not deter people who have been victims of sexual assault from coming forward in the future.'* It wasn't 'extraordinary', Mr Harris, it was ordinarily

horrible. He is on record as saying that he had made the decision to kill himself if he was charged. That too is ordinary, Mr Harris, just read these accounts.

It is unfortunate that decent men like Mr Harris fail to appreciate that being perfectly innocent but being made suicidal by another's actions, and the resulting societal shaming, is a pathology in society which needs correcting – not reinforcing by further pandering to the narrative which created this condition.

Mr Harris's school would not take him back. Some parents had already expressed their alarm at the thought – and parents wishes rule at an expensive private school. Later Mr Harris [told reporters](#), "I would certainly advocate that no man qualify as a teacher. It is just not worth it. There is nothing to protect the male teacher. I am unemployed, living in a bedsit and will soon be on housing benefit. I am toxic. If I knew on the day I qualified what I know now, I would never have become a teacher. I will never work with children again – I will never put myself in that position of vulnerability." At that time Mr Harris said he was considering a job in a crematorium.

You can hear Mr Harris giving his view on the police and the DPP in [this interview](#).

16/15: Zach Kibirige and Anonymous Woman



2016: [Zach Kibirige](#), 21, is a professional rugby player with Newcastle Falcons, and has appeared for England under-20s. Kibirige, gained three A grades at A-level and is studying for a psychology degree alongside his rugby career. He was accused of raping the woman when they met for the first time, having met via Tinder. The pair had swapped almost 1,000 WhatsApp messages over a fortnight before he went round for "cuddles" and to watch a film. Apparently the woman was not pleased that Mr Kibirige had to leave her after an hour to go to a training session, despite having agreed in advance he could go round only for an hour. (Clearly she doesn't have much notion of responsibility and obligation). She was peeved and sent him a message "bucked and ditched!". Mr Kibirige's present and former girlfriends gave him very positive testimonials regarding his considerate nature, declaring the rough sex with he'd been accused out of character. On the fourth day of his trial the jury cleared him of four counts of rape, attempted rape, sexual assault and assault by penetration after just 20 minutes of deliberation.

16/16: Man and His Anonymous Daughter

2016: [A man was accused by his daughter](#) of eight incestuous rapes over a six-year period. (Note that the man's anonymity in this case is only because revealing his name would reveal the identity of his accuser, not out of consideration for him). Defence barrister Cathy McCulloch was at a loss how to construct a defence. All he had was 'I did not do it'. The prospects for the father initially looked bleak. (Another example, do note, of having to prove innocence). But then it emerged that his daughter had been reading 50 Shades Of Grey. Ms McCulloch said "Neither I nor my instructing solicitor's representative had read the book (honest!). Ms McCulloch, a former police officer, persuaded the judge to adjourn the case so she could spend an afternoon and an evening reading the novel.

Ms McCulloch carried out a masterly cross-examination of the girl in court. She wrote in her blog, "I started gently to put the complainant at ease. She agreed her father was strict, and that she was really annoyed with him for "ruining her life". I then went straight to my final question – that she was so angry with her father that she had made this all up. She wavered. I raised the striking similarities between her interview and 50 Shades Of Grey. She suddenly broke and said I was absolutely right. She had made the whole thing up because she was angry with her father and wanted to teach him a lesson. I asked her whether she had got all the ideas from Fifty Shades of Grey. She confirmed this book, and others – which she named. After seven minutes we were finished."

16/17: Michael Isherwood (deceased) and Anonymous Girl



2016: Out of the blue the police arrived to tell [Michael Isherwood](#), 51, that he had been accused of secretly filming a 16-year-old girl. He denied doing anything wrong. He was put on police bail, his phone was taken from him for examination and he was instructed to stay away from certain people and areas in his home town. The bail conditions even barred him from being alone with his eight-year-old niece to whom he was close.

Devastated, within days Isherwood tried to kill himself with an overdose of paracetamol. He recovered but could not shake off the belief that his life was in ruins. Days later he was found dead in his car after gassing himself. He left a handwritten note for his sister: "Mud sticks. No coming back from these allegations." Before the allegations were made against Isherwood, he appeared to be happy. He loved golf and had recently been promoted.

His family say police have told them there was no evidence of wrongdoing: the images on his phone were of Isherwood playing golf.

16/18: George Worrall and Anonymous Woman



2016: [George Worrall](#), 22, an engineering student at Durham University was arrested for rape (so there were two Durham students tried and acquitted of rape in 2016 – see Louis Richardson – and a third had already been charged, see Alistair Cooke). He was suspended from university upon being charged. After 18 months of this horrible threat hanging over him, the CPS offered no evidence at trial as that there were too many inconsistencies in the victim's report for the case to lead to conviction, so a verdict of not guilty was recorded.

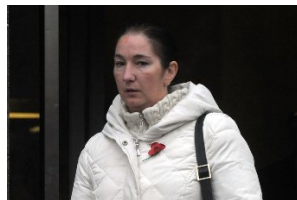
After the trial Mr Worrall said that he hoped to return to Durham to resume his course. Mr Worrall said: 'I do not feel anger for what has been done to me but instead I end the case with a renewed sense of purpose and pride for the things I have achieved over the last 18 months, both personally and professionally in spite of the investigation. My experience is not an isolated one. There have been a number of high profile cases in the news recently where the defendants have been found not guilty and there are many young men, especially in higher education, who face similar situations across the country. These men go through life-changing ordeals and it is time the Government took action to provide adequate protection and grant anonymity to those accused until a court has made a decision as to guilt or innocence. When I return to Durham I will be setting up a group to provide support for young men in higher education who are facing allegations and lobbying for a change in legislation to ensure those accused are treated fairly and do not have their futures jeopardised once they are cleared.'

16/19: Anonymous Man and Anonymous Woman

Picture Removed

2016: An outstanding [Cambridge undergraduate](#), 21, was accused of raping a fellow student following a drink-filled night out in November 2014. His alleged victim told Cambridge Crown Court that he forced himself upon her after returning to her room, leaving huge love bites on her neck. The student claimed he had never had sex with the complainant. He claimed he was too drunk to have had sex. The accusing student had got back in bed with him after the alleged rape. Joe Stone, defending, said: 'Surely if she was raped, the last place on earth she would want to return to would be that room.' The jury found the student not guilty of rape.

16/20: Fiona Scanlan



2016: [Fiona Scanlan](#), 40, a nurse, was drunk when she falsely accused a taxi driver of attempting to rape her. She claimed that William Millar, 56, had driven her to a secluded spot to carry out the attack. This is yet another case which demonstrates that taxi drivers should always have a CCTV recording (in this case her lies were established thanks to the innocent cabbie's GPS tracker). Mr Millar was held by police for 18 hours and was obliged to take part in intimate examinations. She was jailed for 13 months. Mr Millar made the very reasonable observations that "To a certain extent she's put women in danger, because now drivers are not wanting to pick up single drunk females."

16/21: Changqing Shao and Anonymous Woman

2016: [Changqing Shao](#), 21, was a student accused of raping a woman he met in a nightclub – yet another student regret-sex case. A jury cleared him of the charge in less than 45 minutes. The woman told officers she woke up in his bed but could remember little of her time at the club or leaving with Shao hours before. Mr Shao told the court through a Mandarin interpreter that he was certain the woman was consenting to the sexual activity. Jurors heard the pair danced and kissed at the club before sharing a taxi when they left the venue. Shao claimed the woman followed him into his student halls before initiating the sexual contact. He woke up to discover the woman had already left.

16/22: Darren Kelly (deceased) and Chris Carroll plus 3 Other Vigilantes



2016: [Darren Kelly](#), 42, was stabbed to death by Chris Carroll because Mr Kelly had been falsely accused of being a paedophile. Mr Kelly had been lured to a meeting by a 15 year old girl who had arranged to meet him via a messaging app. But he was met by Carroll, 20, and two boys aged 16 and 17, plus the 15 year old girl. Mr Kelly regularly used the internet app Whisper to meet up with women for sex but there was no evidence that he was interested in underage girls. Mr Kelly had thought he had been speaking to an adult woman. There is no evidence to suggest he thought he was speaking to a minor other than the girl's claim. After the teenage schoolgirl was arrested she told the police she had on two earlier occasions set up meetings with older men in order that they might be arrested. She told officers it was "to get them arrested because they were perverts and I don't think perverts should be walking around". It appeared the girl had been running a "campaign against paedophiles". Carroll was sentenced to 21 years for murder. The two boys aged 16 and 17 and the girl were all found not guilty of murder. (I did not find any indication they were tried for any lesser offence).

16/23: Matthew Thomas and Anonymous Woman



2016: [Matthew Thomas](#), 52, was accused of rape by a woman described as "a global superstar's niece". The woman claimed that Mr Thomas had put the date rape drug Rohypnol in her glass of wine and raped her as her young child slept in the next room. She told police that Mr Thomas had raped her on the sofa, on the sitting room floor, and in her bedroom. Mr Thomas maintained the pair had had consensual sex after months of flirting. Giving evidence in court, Mr Thomas said: "She phoned that day and asked me what I was doing that evening and said do you fancy coming round to my house to eat. I said what about your husband, she said he was away, but her son would be there....When I left the bathroom she was in the bedroom completely naked. She beckoned me into the bedroom and we had full sex on the bed. She was leading everything." [He said:](#) 'The next day she text me to say she didn't want to ruin her marriage and told me not to contact her again.' Four former girlfriends of Mr Thomas gave evidence for his defence. The jury took just an hour of deliberation to find him not guilty on all three charges.

16/24: Bryan Teeson and Three Anonymous Accusers

2016: [Bryan Teeson](#), 56 at trial, was accused of attempted rape charge and other sexual offences by two men and a woman. The events were alleged to have occurred 34 to 42 years earlier when Mr Teeson was himself 14 and 22. He was cleared of sexual assault on the girl, now a grown woman, at his first trial but that jury failed to reach a verdict on other charges. A second jury was unanimous in finding him not guilty on all charges. I failed to find further details of the case. The judge declared that Mr Teeson was free to go without a stain on his character.

16/25: Trevor Gray and Anonymous Woman



2016 (final judicial review): [Trevor Gray](#), a serving police detective, was accused of raping a 43-year-old woman at her home in 2011. They had been out together and had gone back to the woman's house. She claimed he raped her, though her memory of events seems vague. Mr Gray claims they had consensual sex which she initiated. The jury found him guilty and he was jailed for eight years. However, his estranged wife did not believe Mr Gray capable of such an act. As will be familiar from many other cases compiled here, it is necessary for friends of the accused to perform their own investigation if the obligation to prove innocence is to be fulfilled. Mrs Gray set about reading the case notes. She discovered a taxi driver mentioned in the files who had not been questioned by police. He was tracked down and later told jurors at Mr Gray's retrial in 2014 that he saw the woman and Mr Gray kiss and embrace. Mr Gray, 51, was acquitted after a four-day hearing. Mrs Gray had financed the legal bills by selling Mr Gary's possessions on ebay.

But Trevor Gray's troubles were not over. Despite his acquittal - and a Police Appeals Tribunal board ruling that Mr Gray could return to work - his police employers suspended him in April 2014, a decision later upheld by the same tribunal board. "They held a disciplinary hearing in which they said - on the balance of probability - they believed the complainant over Trevor," (It's a real mystery there aren't more black policemen, isn't it?). Mrs Gray said "Effectively he was being sentenced again on the same point by the police." [Trevor Gray said](#) he "could not discount a malicious reason for the inquiry's failure". Even the BBC wrote that the inquiry "beggars belief". Two years on, Mr Gray was granted a judicial review into that dismissal, the result of which was that the police force had been wrong not to reinstate Mr Gray, finally allowing Mr Gray's name to be cleared after 5 years battle and costs amounting to £150,000.

16/26: Kelly Jarvis and Fiona Miller



2016: Whilst it is overwhelmingly more common for men to be the target of false allegations of sexual assault, it does sometimes happen to women too. Fiona Miller, 34, was the target of a two-year campaign of harassment by a female police officer, [Kelly Jarvis](#), including distressing 'phone calls with sexual content and social media messages from 'sock-puppet' accounts. On four separate occasions PC Jarvis made false claims to the NSPCC that Ms Miller was mistreating her own child (two anonymously and two under false names). She also sent texts to Ms Miller falsely claiming her partner was having sex with another woman. When Jarvis entered a claim on her police computer that Ms Miller had had sex with a 14 year old boy eight years earlier. The boy involved, now an adult, submitted a statement to police stating that he had never had a sexual relationship with Ms Miller. Police investigated the claims about Ms Miller's son and found nothing of concern had occurred.

A police report exposed the allegations as false, but rather than being subjected to disciplinary action (or, indeed, prosecution) Pc Kelly Jarvis was allowed to resign from Cleveland Police on "health grounds", thereby safeguarding her pension rights.

The reasons for Jarvis's actions are unclear but appear to be jealousy. Both were members of the same riding establishment, which was owned by Ms Miller's partner's family. The jealousy may have been over their relative wealth, but that is surmise. Ms Miller commented, *"It is frightening how much power the police have. My son could have been taken away from me"*.

16/27: Peter Singh and Anonymous WPC



2016: [Peter Singh](#), 37, an actor, was visited by a policewoman who started asking him rather impertinent questions. Irritated, Mr Singh reached out to usher her out of his flat. In the process he brushed his hand against her behind (so she claimed). So the woman PC filed a sexual assault charge. It took a jury less than 5 minutes to clear him.

16/28: Doctor Unt Tun Maung and Anonymous Woman



2016: [Doctor Unt Tun Maung](#), 45, was jailed for 'attacking' a 19-year-old woman when she visited a medical centre complaining of chest pains. He was accused of "cupping the woman's breasts" after telling her to remove her bra. **But Dr Maung insisted that he had only carried out a medical examination.** He examined her ears and throat before placing a stethoscope under her blouse. He denied ever asking her to remove her bra and denied there had been any "cupping of breasts". After spending 6 months in prison, Dr Maung was cleared of sexual assault at a re-trial. Dr Maung had been forbidden from practising as a doctor since 2013 and this suspension continued in 2016. (I am unaware of whether the ban was lifted thereafter).

If I were a male doctor I would be very concerned indeed for my own safety in carrying out medical examinations of females without a third party present.

16/28: Farooq Siddique and Anonymous Woman

2016: [Farooq Siddique](#), 46, was charged with three counts of rape, two counts of assault causing actual bodily harm and one charge of making a threat to kill. An upstanding and respected leader of a Muslim community, charges against Mr Siddique were dropped after two years after his initial arrest. He said "My life, my reputation, my career, all of it has just imploded. It doesn't matter that it's all been proven to be nonsensical, the reality is the impact it's had on me, on my family. I said to [the police] on day one, 'everything you're asking me, every question you're asking me, everything you're alluding to, the answer to everything is on my phone, please check my phone, this will be over'." Why did it take two years and the destruction of a man's life before the authorities concluded, "During a review of new evidence which came to light we were no longer satisfied that there was sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction". A short video of Mr Siddique [here](#) is worth watching.

16/29: Rassam Ali and Anonymous Girl



2016: [Rassam Ali](#), 26, the owner of a dessert bar, was sentenced to 3 years in prison for sexual activity with a child (a 14 year old girl). In prison he was beaten by other inmates who thought he was a paedophile. But the police investigation was botched (at the most favourable interpretation) having failed to examine a raft of exculpatory evidence.

A few months before the allegation was made, Mr Ali had told off the girl in question over an incident in his store.

Police admitted in court they had not examined CCTV from the shop on the night of the alleged incident or from council cameras outside. They also failed to speak to neighbouring businesses about whether Mr Ali had shut early that day as was alleged, and did not search Mr Ali's home for the 'silky striped underwear' the girl said he had been wearing. The police also failed to check the complainant's Facebook history which showed she attempted to add him as a friend despite her not telling police this in her interview.

But of particular concern is how the police dealt with one of the key witnesses in the case, another 14-year-old girl. The complainant had claimed that this friend had also been propositioned by Mr Ali and that she had said on various occasions that he asked if they had boyfriends, whether they would come back to the shop when it was closed and asked both whether they would perform oral sex on him. Despite the girl being both a key witness in the case and a potential victim, when officers originally spoke to her they made no note of the conversation.

In fact this witness had originally said she did not wish to get involved. But the police left a card with the 14-year-old girl telling her to get back in touch with them if she did wish to say anything. Following Mr Ali's trial and the guilty verdict, the girl came forward to the defence team and said she wanted to tell the truth. She provided them with a video interview in which, lawyers for Mr Ali told the Court of Appeal, undermined the complainant's account in more than a dozen key areas. This included her saying that Mr Ali was 'always polite and never said anything to upset anyone', that he 'never spoke in sexual terms' to them and that he had never asked either of them if they had boyfriends, or to come back to the shop after it was closed or for oral sex.

It was ruled that a retrial was justified by the new evidence, but the CPS decided to offer no evidence so Mr Ali's conviction was quashed. However, by that time he had already served his full term of 18 months in prison.

After being released Mr Ali said, "My defence team did the things the police should have done. I don't blame the girl, whether she wanted to hurt me or someone has set her up to do it, I don't know. But I blame the police for taking it on without investigating properly. I tried my best to prove my innocence and there was evidence there. Whether to prove me innocent or guilty, they should have just looked at any of the cameras."

A spokesman for the CPS said: "The complainant in this case does not wish to go through the trial process for a second time and so we decided not to pursue a retrial." Well, she wouldn't, would she?

16/30: Andrew and Louise and their Father

2016: A man known only as '[Andrew](#)' appeared on the Jeremy Kyle show to tell viewers that his younger sister accused him of raping her as a child. The woman, named Louise, also claimed that her father Clive had sexually assaulted her. Neither of her accusations were true and she later admitted as much. Despite beating the allegations once, Andrew and his father had to go through it all again when Louise made the same accusations of rape that had previously proved to be false. Louise refused to go on stage but told Jeremy Kyle in the green room that she made the false accusations because "a lot of things were going on in her life at the time. There was too much going on top of me and it just got too complicated." Oh, OK, that's all right then.

15/1: Mark Pearson and Anonymous Actress



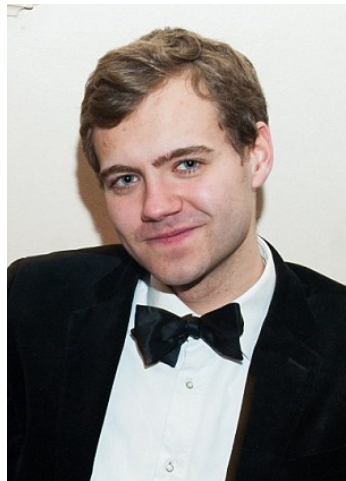
2015: [Mark Pearson](#), 51, was walking across Waterloo station on his way home. He had no way of knowing that an actress, in her 60s, whom he walked passed would later accuse him of sexual assault. She said that he had put his hand up her skirt and into her leggings and knickers and assaulted her by penetration. You can hear the whole story in Mark's own words in [this video](#). As is typical in these cases, six policemen turned up out of the blue, proceeded to search his flat and then carted him off to a police station for questioning. It would be months before he was told much about the charges against him.

After six months he finally saw the CCTV which was supposed to be evidence against him. A blind idiot could see that the CCTV evidence showed that he could not possibly have committed the deed. He did not break step as he passed the woman. The woman's claim was clearly a piece of utter nonsense. In addition to the impossibility of the timing, Mr Pearson was carrying a newspaper in his left hand – the one he was alleged to have used in the assault – and holding his bag in his right hand.

Curiously, the CCTV images passed to the defence team from the CPS had been tampered with. They had been slowed down to give the impression that Mr Pearson had more time to do the "penetrating". In addition, the police were in position of evidence which, despite requests from the defence lawyers, they said did not exist – until the case came to trial.

Mark Pearson now wishes to raise a legal action against the CPS and has a [crowdfunding campaign](#) in an attempt to acquire enough funds to do so. (I encourage you to donate). You can hear Mr Pearson's account of how he 'met his Waterloo' [here](#).

15/2: Ben Sullivan and Two Anonymous Women



2015: Ben Sullivan had been dreading a knock at his door for more than a year, since rumours had begun circulating his Oxford college that a student was planning to accuse him of sexual assault. The knock came at the break of dawn. Three police officers arrested him on suspicion of rape and attempted rape in May 2014. Two undergraduate students had accused him of forcing himself on them after nights out in January and April the previous year. He was held in custody for 12 hours, being questioned for several hours, then released on bail.

And yet one of the students who accused the Sullivan of rape appears to have admitted almost a year earlier that [their relationship was consensual](#).

The trappings of apparent privilege rather backfire in such a situation. The picture of Sullivan, a banker's son and President of the prestigious Oxford Union, in evening suit and bow tie which made headlines across the world probably did not encourage popular sympathy. And yet he had not been charged, let alone convicted. In fact, he never would be charged. (NB: The Oxford Union is a posh debating society, nothing to do with the left-leaning National Union of Students, the NUS).

Six weeks later, he received a call saying no further action would be taken. His ordeal was not finally over, however. In February the following year on of [the alleged victims attempted to have the case re-opened](#), appealing to the CPS under their "Victims' Right to Review" scheme. The application was rejected, however.

In truth, the Ben Sullivan case would appear to be a case of very dirty student politics.

Immediately upon Sullivan's initial arrest, a campaign was organised by Sarah Pine, President for Women at the Oxford University Student Union. The purpose of this campaign was to oust Sullivan from his Presidency of the Union. She, backed by a cabal of suitably 'outraged' students, contacted at least 30 of the Oxford Union's forthcoming speakers, urging them to boycott future debates unless Ben resigned. These invited luminaries were urged to support the call for Ben to stand down in what Pine and her cabal described as a 'push for equality'.

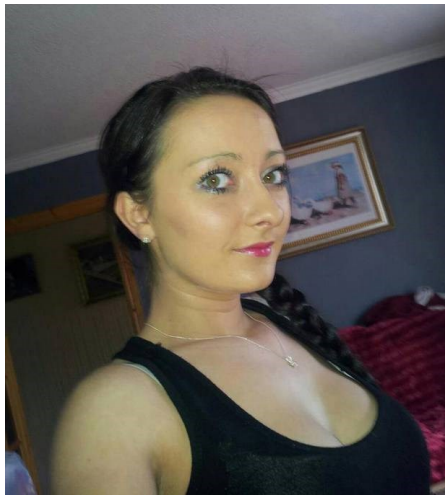
We've come across this concept of equality before.

To their shame, most of the invitees obeyed the call for the boycott. A.C.Grayling was an honourable exception, refusing to be guided by a 'kangaroo court'. Also one Jennifer Perry, an expert on cyber-crime, resisted — and she later spoke of how she felt ['threatened' and 'intimidated'](#) by Pine's gender-driven agenda. The wider body of student opinion in Oxford believe that Sullivan had been [victim of a feminist crusade](#).

15/3: Sean Frayne and Unknown Other Persons

2015: [Sean Frayne](#), a fire chief, was cleared of rape by a unanimous jury in just 10 minutes after a five day trial. Mr Frayne, 48, denied raping the woman, claiming to have had a consensual sexual encounter with her after she kissed him passionately. The alleged rape took place while Frayne's wife was in another room. A friend of the alleged victim wrote to Mr Frayne suggesting "publicity may be avoided" for a substantial "out-of-court payment". It is not clear if the alleged victim knew of this attempt at blackmail. Sean Frayne's lawyer attacked the Crown Prosecution Service decision to bring the case against Mr Frayne at all. She questioned why there had not been an investigation into attempted blackmail instead. She said: "They (the police) have investigated one side of the story and they have not investigated the other.

15/4: Emma Gallagher



2015: [Emma Louise Gallagher](#), 23, knocked on a stranger's door following a night out in an unfamiliar town and claimed she had been raped. Gallagher's alleged attacker was arrested, questioned and held in custody for more than four hours. Gallagher was also interviewed the next day by specialist detectives and finally admitted her story was a pack of lies. Gallagher admitted that her motivation was to secure a free lift home in a police car. She was later convicted of perverting the course of justice and given a nine month suspended sentence.

15/5: Comfort Yinusa



2015: [Comfort Yinusa](#), 23, accused two men of rape and sexual assault outside an east London club after a night of drinking. Yinusa said she had left the club with the men and made the allegation after phoning her boyfriend in distress and asking to be picked up. Apparently the motivation was simply an outburst of anger. Two police officers and an ambulance with two paramedics were sent to investigate and treat any injuries. The men she accused were subjected to a humiliating ordeal, spending six weeks on bail and felt shocked, shamed and stigmatised by the allegations. But detectives discovered CCTV footage at a nearby McDonald's restaurant which showed Yinusa and her two alleged attackers laughing together. Phone records also revealed one of the men was walking the streets looking for his car when she claimed the alleged rape happened. Yinusa refused to be medically examined the day after making the claim and failed to turn up for police interviews. She later told detectives she did not want to go ahead with her complaint. But in the meantime, the suspects had spent 14 hours and 16 hours in police custody. She was jailed at the Old Bailey in 2015 for [8 months](#).

15/6: Nicole Richess



2015: [Nicole Richess](#), 20, and a female friend met a group of four soldiers in a club and they all went back to the friend's home. The latter discovered, in a bedroom, Richess wearing only a bra and two soldiers in a state of undress. She ordered them to leave her house and they went to Richess's home to continue their threesome. The following morning, Richess drove the soldiers back to their Army Camp. Richess had a boyfriend at the time of the incident and he was starting to hear rumours that she was unfaithful. When he confronted her, she told him she lied. She told her boyfriend of three years that the two army soldiers walked in on her while she was changing. She said they forced themselves on her and tried to orally and anally rape her. Her boyfriend then made Richess report the alleged incident to the police. She gave a tearful, but false, account to the police. The two soldiers were then arrested.

Upon further investigation, officers quickly realized that Richess had been lying. They got the accounts of the two soldiers and her friends about what really happened on that night. Richess was arrested and charged with perverting the course of justice. She denied the charge at first but pleaded guilty on the eve of the trial two years later. The Judge told Richess that her false allegation had a "corrosive effect on criminal justice." (They always say this, and it's quite true. The more false allegations there are, the more sceptical juries will be inclined to be in cases where there is only the alleged victim's account). The judge said, "You made a determined and prolonged attempt to weave a picture of deceit to further your ends and you were prepared to make wholly false allegations of attempted rape against these innocent young men. The impact on these victims cannot be understated [sic] and false allegations of rape and attempted rape can have dreadful consequences."

Richess was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison.

15/7: The Son of Hilary Green and Anonymous Female Oxford Student

2015: [Hilary Green's son](#), then 21, met the Oxford student who was to accuse him of rape at a party. They 'made out', but it did not proceed beyond kissing. He saw her one more time after that, spending the day in her company with a group of friends. They never had sex. Two weeks later he received a call from the police saying they wanted to question him about a rape allegation at the party. He was to undergo 15 months of agony until the trial came up.

His life was ripped apart. The stress forced him to drop out of university, and he went from being easy-going to someone who was tearful and fearful. He had hoped to start a career in advertising, but stress made him unable to continue his art and design studies. He now works in a shop. The trauma of the case has left him a chronic insomniac who suffers stress-related eczema and headaches. 'I can understand how some young men have been driven to suicide,' he said. 'I will never be the same trusting and carefree person I used to be.'

Hilary Green maintains he was mistreated by the police. It wasn't until the case came to trial that the family realised just how little police officers had bothered to investigate the alleged victim. Apart from the young woman's allegations there wasn't a shred of physical evidence she'd ever been raped. She turned out to have had a history of mental illness, depression, attention-seeking behaviour and lying. Most shocking was that this was the second time she had falsely accused a man of rape.

It took a jury at Winchester Crown Court just an hour to clear her son when the case was heard in January 2015. Even though the woman's claims were entirely false, she is guaranteed anonymity by the law, unlike Hilary's son.

Mrs Green has made a formal complaint to the police. The Greens claim that officers neglected to even consider that the woman's rape accusation might be false, and insist that their son should never have been charged. In 2015 they were contemplating suing police for hauling her son through the courts.

15/8: Tina Long



2015: [Geoff Long](#) had a daughter, Tina, from his first marriage, though he divorced Tina's mother some time later. Despite being divorced from her mother, Geoff "gave away" Tina when she married. But decades later, in 2009, Tina went to her local police 'historic sexual abuse inquiry team' and accused Geoff of having sexually abused and raped her from the age of eight to sixteen. At Geoff's trial the evidence against him "[seemed so flimsy as to be practically non-existent](#)", essentially just Tina's word. Geoff Long was sent to prison for five years. But Geoff's third wife, Louise, decided to fight back. Though she initially entertained some doubts herself, she paid to obtain a mass of court papers. In them she discovered multiple pieces of exculpatory evidence which had not been aired at the original trial – including an alibi for Geoff and

Tina's brother Steve made a statement that in a drunken moment she confessed to her brother that she had made up all the accusations. But when Steve went to police he was charged with perverting the course of justice. There was a re-trial – and then a second re-trial, at which Tina, now 47, finally admitted she had lied about the rape claim (though she never admitted lying about the rest of her evidence). The CPS then moved to offer no evidence and the trial collapsed. Geoff was exonerated, as was Tina's brother, Steve.

The motivation for the allegations has been suggested to be Tina's resentment that children from Geoff's later marriages were financially better off than her. While Geoff was only a painter and decorator, after his first marriage he later did well in business.

In the view of Geoff's solicitor, it was 'blindingly obvious' that the claims against Geoff were false. Yet an innocent man was subjected to four court appearances, including an appeal and two retrials, before his conviction was quashed.

15/9: Sophie Tucker



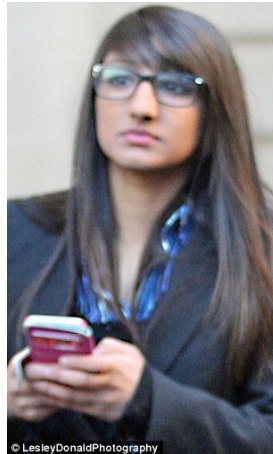
In 2015, [Sophie Tucker](#), 23, claimed she had been raped after having oral sex with her husband-to-be's manager Carl Williamson, 51, at her home. This was days before she was due to get married to 28 year old Chris Hutchings. Tucker had initiated an exchange of text and Facebook messages of a sexual nature with Mr Williamson. She also sent him naked photos of herself. While out with her partner, Tucker had touched Mr Williamson under a table. Later she invited him to her home. As soon as he got there she pushed him onto the sofa and gave him oral sex. Mr Williamson was arrested and spent 24 days on police bail until Tucker finally admitted she was lying. Tucker admitted perverting the course of justice but a judge suspended her 18-month sentence for two years, saying he did not want her children to 'suffer for your actions and stupidity'.

15/10: Eleri Edwards



2015: [Eleri Edwards](#), a 32 year old former maths teacher, pretended to be a 13-year-old girl on Childline ten times, claiming that she was a young pupil sexually abused by the school's headteacher, Mr Tudur Williams. Innocent Mr Williams was interviewed by police, but they became suspicious the report might be a hoax. They then traced the IP address the Childline from which the reports had been sent. Edwards (also known as Eleri Roberts) was arrested. She had been sacked from her teaching job in 2002, but not at the same school as Mr Williams. In fact, it remains unclear whether she even knew Mr Williams, whose school is 55 miles from her home. Nobody could offer an explanation for Edwards' actions. At one point Edwards attempted to blame her estranged husband for the bogus allegations. A professional conduct committee of the Education Workforce Council struck Edwards off the teaching register. As far as I am aware, Edwards was never prosecuted.

15/11: Naima Shereen Mirza



2015: [Naima Shereen Mirza](#) falsely claimed she had been hauled into bushes and raped twice by the same man in the same park five months apart has been jailed for two years. She was 21 at trial but 17 at the time of the alleged attacks. She had lied in order to explain not doing well enough in her exams to get into university, in a bid to get an extra year at school to resit. The man she named was actually in jail at the time of the alleged attacks. These were the Sheriff's words at her trial: *"In many years in these courts in one capacity or another, I have come across the whole range of hateful, hideous and downright bizarre things that people do to each other and the world at large. But I doubt, however, in all that time that I have encountered a course of conduct so strange, so needless and so hard to fathom as yours. It is also a course of conduct that is selfish, devious and persistent to a truly remarkable degree. Resources were diverted from genuine crimes where genuine victims were anxiously and fearfully waiting for their assailants to be brought to book. That is not only appalling, it is positively cruel. For almost a year you spun a web of lies and deceit of quite remarkable scope, intricacy and forethought. Throughout that time, you caused huge amounts of public money and effort, not to mention the dedication and commitment of the police officers from whom we heard, to be needlessly expended for no other purpose than the gratification of watching them dance to your tune."*

14/1: Rhiannon Brooker and Paul Fensome



2014: [Law graduate and trainee barrister, Rhiannon Brooker](#), aged 30, claimed she was raped and assaulted by Paul Fensome, her partner. Fensome, a railway signaller, was held in prison for 37 days. While in custody, Fensome was held in a secure wing after rumours went around that he was a paedophile. But when police investigated they found Mr Fensome had 'cast iron alibis' and all claims against him were dropped after detectives found no evidence. One has to question how competent a barrister Brooker could be, making allegations at times when the accused was provably elsewhere.

Police then turned their attention to Brooker. Experts said that Brooker's injuries, which she showed to friends, were self-inflicted. Brooker then withdrew the allegations and confirmed they were false. But after being charged with 20 counts of perverting the course of justice, Brooker withdrew her confession and pleaded not guilty.

In 2014 she was found guilty of 12 offences relating to false allegations of five rapes, six assaults and one false imprisonment. Several suggestions were made regarding her motivation for the deception, though the real reason was unresolved. Brooker herself said she made up the claims because of 'unresolved feelings of anger'.

In sentencing Brooker to three and a half years, the judge said she had acted in an "utterly wicked" way. However, as is so common in these cases, in the judge's opinion, the wickedness lay, not in the near destruction of a man's life based on malicious lies, but in the concern that *"false claims made it more difficult for real rape victims to be believed in court"*, adding, *"false allegations have an insidious effect on the public, causing scepticism and making it harder for real victims to be believed"*.

Here is the empathy gap in neon lights. Whilst a specific, named, and entirely innocent man nearly had his life ruined, this does not constitute the most pressing motivation for punishing Rhiannon Brooker. No – it is the *potential* for harm to women which is the motivation. And as for false allegations having an "insidious effect on the public", indeed they do. They severely damage the narrative of "believe the victim". But is it insidious to damage this narrative, or is it the narrative itself which is insidious?

There was [no doubt in the minds of women's rights campaigners](#) who reacted angrily to the prison sentence handed to Brooker, crying out "shame" and "miscarriage of justice" in the courtroom. The campaign group Women Against Rape (WAR) was among more than a dozen organisations and lawyers who wrote to the judge arguing that a harsh sentence would put women off coming forward to report rapes for fear they would not be believed. Oddly these people fail to appreciate that convictions for false accusations only apply when falsity is proved beyond reasonable doubt. No true complainant has reason to fear. This lobby is never moved by the counter-argument that failing to punish such callous behaviour is likely to encourage it. This does not matter, in their minds, because

they suffer from the same callous mindset: destruction of innocent men is acceptable in the holy cause of punishing guilty men. In other words, just punish all men – none are truly innocent.

14/2: Jonathan Coupland and daughter, Jessica – and Suzi Smith (social worker)

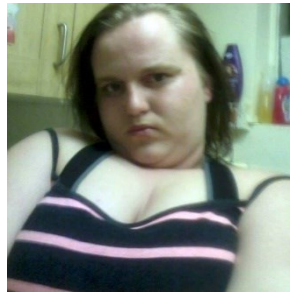


In 2014 Lincolnshire single father, [Jonathan Coupland](#), was arrested and banned from seeing his six-year-old daughter after a social worker falsely accused him of child abuse. The social worker made the claims after becoming annoyed when Mr Coupland criticised her handling of his custody dispute with his former partner. The former painter and decorator was raising his daughter alone after being granted custody shortly after she was born in December 2005.

Coupland was arrested and questioned by police for ten hours after social worker Suzi Smith reported seeing him sexually assaulting Jessica, then aged six. The 53-year-old had been handcuffed and led away to a cell in front of his horrified neighbours. It was a humiliating experience for Mr Coupland. Other parents at his daughter's school later turned on him. Mr Coupland said, "It was a completely false story but my daughter could have been fostered and I could now be in a paedophile wing of a major prison because of this social worker."

Mrs Smith later retracted the accusations and the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass) were forced to pay the single father compensation and offer him a formal apology. Smith claimed she had been [put under pressure by the police](#) to stand by her false allegation. Mr Coupland reported the social worker to police but the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) decided not to take action against her. After a six month delay, Mrs Smith has now been sacked.

14/3: Emily Pike and Tom Mills



2014: Ah, the dangers of arranging casual sex by internet app. [Emily Pike, 23](#), had sex with Tom Mills, 24, in a hotel near Bristol, having made the arrangements by internet. But Mills, having decided Emily Pike did not live up to the description on her dating profile, decided to sneak away while she was still asleep. When Pike awoke to find Mills had gone, she called the police and told them he raped her in the hotel and in his car. However, CCTV images from their date, as well as 'phone messages, proved she was lying and she was charged with perverting the course of justice. In 2014 she was served with an eighteen-month jail sentence.

It transpired that Pike had 15 previous convictions, including [an earlier false rape claim](#) "for which she had apologised". (That's OK, then). Even her defence council agreed she had a history of telling fantastic lies – including a fantasy husband in Iraq.

A commenter (Maria) on the [Mail OnLine account of the Emily Pike case](#) wrote

"My partner is in HMP Garth 250 miles from home on the words of a proven liar and fantasist who had previously accused several men falsely before. She has sent death threats and abuse to witnesses, attacked them in the street and still no-one will listen to us. The Hearsay Law is evil and it must be abolished. It does not have to be true for people to believe it and it has ruined our lives. I have witnessed the most appalling behaviour from Essex Police officers and I will never trust the police again."

And a reply to this comment was,

"I hate injustice so much - it is amongst the worst things that can happen to someone (a case like this anyway). I know of someone falsely accused of a sexual offence (not rape) who was finally exonerated BECAUSE they demonstrated this woman had falsely accused men before. This shot her credibility down in flames. They also found CCTV cameras in the area they were accused of being, and surprise surprise, appeared on none of them. It was the accused person who did this footwork though, not the police. Am so sorry for the situation you are both in - and hoping justice is soon served!"

14/4: Heather Gibson



2014: [Heather Gibson, 29](#), was jailed for four years in 2014 for falsely claiming her boyfriend had raped her 14 times. Her former partner Gavin Plaistowe, 30, was held in police custody for 35 hours after she accused him of the rapes.

She took police to the spot of one of the alleged rapes, saying she had been dragged by the hair. Gibson gave detailed accounts of each rape in video interview, but claimed that she had showered after the attacks and lost all forensic evidence. She claimed to have details of contacts of witnesses in a cupcake-shaped notebook. However, the police recovered CCTV of her buying the notebook from a supermarket the day after she told them of its existence.

The first rape she claimed happened when she was eight months pregnant by Mr Plaistowe. She said she was raped again after giving birth and on two other occasions - first by Mr Plaistowe and four friends then by Mr Plaistowe and five others.

But CCTV of Gibson at work in the supermarket undermined her accounts. After a considerable amount of police effort, Gibson was ultimately charged with perverting the course of justice. She reacted by forging a string of letters. They purported to be from officials including a crown court judge, a police officer, a justice minister and even then-Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg – all claiming she had been the subject of wrongful allegations and expressed outrage she had been charged.

While she awaited trial for perverting the course of justice, Gibson claimed that Mr Plaistowe raped her again, twice.

Heather Gibson's wild accusations seemed to start when her baby was taken into care – for which she blamed Mr Plaistowe. But the actual reason social services took this action was lack of parenting skills, which cannot be blamed entirely on Mr Plaistowe.

Even her own defence council admitted in court that what Gibson alleged against Mr Plaistowe was actually impossible. Her council also conceded that there was a degree of persistence and subterfuge.

In sentencing, Judge Graham Robinson observed, 'It can no longer be said that women will not lie about such things. You make cases where women genuinely have been raped harder. This was a serious case - Mr Plaistowe must have been terrified.'

14/5: Lisha Tait



2014: [22-year-old Lisha Tait](#) claimed she was grabbed in a club and pulled outside where she was attacked. Tait was taken to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre where she was examined and made a formal allegation of rape against a man she knew. The accused man attended a police station voluntarily, where he was questioned for around two hours. He admitted he had spoken to her in the club but said he didn't leave the premises with Tait and denied her allegation. He also told police they had "been together consensually that week". A police investigation found CCTV footage of Tait leaving the club area, intoxicated, but alone in a taxi. The accused man did not leave the nightclub. Tait later admitted that she made the story up because "the man had given her the cold shoulder in the club". The defence barrister told the court "this is a case of a woman scorned". In 2014 Tait was given 9 months in jail.

14/6: Kimberley Wheelhouse



2014: [Kimberely Wheelhouse](#), an agent for Ann Summers, told her partner that she was going out to sell the firm's products at a party. But she then went to another address for "arranged sex" with another man. This man contacted her mother before phoning a taxi to take her home. In the taxi, she told the driver she thought she had been raped. And when the driver got to her house, he told her partner. Wheelhouse gave a statement to police about the alleged sex assault and two men were questioned without charge. Police continued to investigate the case because of discrepancies in Wheelhouse's story. When interviewed by police, Wheelhouse ultimately admitted she had made it up. She was sentenced to 90 hours of unpaid community work.

14/7: Natalie Mortimer



2014: [Nurse Natalie Mortimer](#), 25, was struck off and given 22 months for wasting 175 hours of police time after making false accusations. She claimed that her grandfather, Gordon Ritchie, had sexually abused her and raped her when she was a child so she could get her hands on inheritance money. Mr Ritchie spent some time in police cells being questioned. Newspaper reports say that Mortimer showed no remorse as she left the court dock in handcuffs - smiling at her friends in the public gallery. Mortimer had been living with her grandfather and grandmother in Scotland but had left and moved to London. It was only then that she started to make allegations about her grandfather having abused her when she was at primary school. Mr Ritchie and his wife were then caring for Mortimer's 15 year old half sister, but was order not to have contact with children under 16 whilst he was investigated. The Ritchie's had a long history as foster carers and previous foster children were questioned as part of the investigation into Mr Ritchie. Over many months Mortimer repeated allegations that Mr Ritchie was her abuser and a paedophile. But here story began to unravel when her mother, Susan Simpson, expressed scepticism. Mortimer eventually admitted she had made up the sex attack claims. Her defence solicitor said her client was aware she had 'torn lives apart' with her greedy, selfish and cruel actions.

14/8: Emily Chatters

2014: [Emily Chatters](#), 20, initially made 26 calls to the police about a named individual, reporting rape, kidnap, assault and harassment. These were followed by more calls to the police made using an alias. On one occasion, Chatters alleged the same individual, with two others, had threatened to rape her and kicked her in the stomach. But suspicions were raised about her claims after she complained the individual had been to see her at work. When CCTV footage was checked no-one fitting the person's description could be seen at the time she claimed he was there. Mr Devine said she also claimed the individual had made threatening gestures towards her in a Thetford car park and had sent her threatening text messages, but again police found no corroborating evidence. After being charged with four counts of wasting police time, Chatters admitted she had made it all up. She was sentenced to a one-year community order.

14/9: Anonymous 14 Year Old Girl

2014: [A 14-year-old girl](#) who claimed she was approached and raped by a man in a field in Brighton has since admitted no such attack took place, Sussex Police have said. It was now clear no such incident took place, he said. No police action is being taken against the girl who made the report and she has been given access to welfare and counselling support.

14/10 Emily Checksfield



This one is extraordinary by any standards.

2014: In 2012, Chris Crabtree, 43, then in a parachute regiment, rather regretted taking [Emily Checksfield](#), 41, as his partner. He was ultimately to discover that she had previously been known as Nadine Milroy-Sloan, but only after he had become her victim. They had met on a dating website and had a relationship lasting 9 months. But then Mr Crabtree found out that she had been defrauding two military charities for which Checksfield had assisted him in raising funds. He told her the relationship was over and that she had to pay back the money or he would tell the police.

She was never tried on that charge. Immediately she realised her game was up, she contacted the police and claimed that Mr Crabtree had threatened to kill her with a samurai sword. She fooled the police into believing that Crabtree was mentally unstable, had PTSD from his time in combat, that he had access to weapons and was likely to resist arrest. As a result Mr Crabtree was arrested at gunpoint by armed officers, denied bail and spent the next three months in prison on remand, with his 25-year military career in jeopardy. He was completely innocent of any wrongdoing. He was entirely her victim.

To those who caution against exaggerating the dangers of false accusations, do internalise this lesson in the power that women have to get a man incarcerated with no evidence at all.

While in custody it dawned on Mr Crabtree that anyone who rejected her “had to pay”. And he was paying.

While locked up, Mr Crabtree was subject to further wild and untrue accusations that, he later said “could have reduced a lesser man to suicide”. Checksfield concocted more and more lurid tales in an endeavour to keep Mr Crabtree imprisoned, including claims that his laptop contained child porn and evidence he had been torturing prisoners in Afghanistan. At this point Checksfield’s story began to unravel when experts found no such material on the laptop, and eventually Mr Crabtree’s innocence was proven. However, it was to take action from Mr Crabtree himself to get Checkfield prosecuted and brought to book.

But first.....so-called Emil Checksfield’s back story - [when she was known as Nadine Milroy-Sloan](#). Then 29, she already had a criminal record before she claimed that she had been raped by former Tory MP Neil Hamilton, together with his wife Christine. In truth, she had never even met the couple.

Milroy-Sloan – or Checksfield, if you prefer - said she had been lured to a flat where the sex attack had taken place by Barry Lehaney, who she said had told her he was the couple's chauffeur. Two days before the date of the fictitious attack, Milroy-Sloan offered the publicist

Max Clifford a story about the Hamiltons being involved in a vice ring and a tax scam. Clifford told Milroy-Sloan she could expect about £100,000 from the media if she could prove her vice ring claims.

Milroy-Sloan then set out to "get the evidence" and arranged to see Mr Lehaney, with whom she had been exchanging explicit e-mails. She told Lehaney that she wanted him to arrange a meeting with Neil and Christine Hamilton for the purpose of a sexual encounter.

In court, Milroy-Sloan denied making false rape allegations against the Hamiltons and Mr Lehaney. She told the court she "apologised" if she had made an "honest mistake". The court didn't buy it and in 2003 Checksfield – or Nadine Milroy-Sloan - was jailed for three years after a trial that cost an estimated £1 million.

So back to 2012 and poor Mr Crabtree who had had no idea initially with whom he was entangled...

Even with Emily Checksfield's notorious past, the police and the CPS decided to prosecute Mr Crabtree over the samurai sword claim. Fortunately for him, her story fell apart. But even then, the CPS did not pro-actively prosecute this appalling serial liar.

Instead, on returning home from prison, Mr Crabtree found his home ransacked and his belongings missing. He launched a burglary allegation against Checksfield and some of his belongings were found in her new home. Though she was later acquitted of the burglary charge, it was to prove her undoing anyway. Checksfield begged Mr Crabtree to meet her so she could persuade him to drop the charge. He did meet with her – and secretly recorded their conversation. Unknowingly she condemned herself, admitting she had lied about the whole thing. Mr Crabtree later remarked, "Seeing her again after everything, I had to ignore every sense of loathing I had for her because I knew getting that confession was gold dust. She is so convincing. I think she is a sociopath. She has no conscience."

Two years later the recording finally cleared his name for good and secured her conviction and a four-year jail term.

14/11: Anonymous Boy and Anonymous Girl - 2

2014: The Guardian ran a series called "the letter you always wanted to write". This was one of the contributions, its title conveys the nature of the content: "[A letter to the girl who accused me of rape when I was 15](#)". In case it gets taken down, a copy can be found [here](#). There is little point in my copying it - I leave you to read it. It ends, *"I moved away from home and keep minimal ties with my old life, but I don't think I'll ever forget what you did. I don't know why you told your friend that I had raped you – maybe because you didn't want to admit you'd had sex so casually or maybe because you were scared. But I will never be able to forgive you for what you did to me. You damaged my perception of women entirely and the only relationship I have since been able to sustain is with a man I can trust."*

14/12: Steven Rudderham (deceased)

2014: [Steven Rudderham](#), a 48 year old father, was driven to suicide following groundless, malicious paedophile accusations on Facebook. His name, address and photograph were published online, along with a message calling him a 'dirty perv' and claiming he was a paedophile. Within minutes the message had been shared hundreds of times and Mr Rudderham began receiving death threats on Facebook. Even people who had known her father for years joined in the cyber bullying. His mother said "He just couldn't believe it. He was just looking at the wall and he wouldn't eat. It was like someone had ripped his life apart." He was found hanged in the city cemetery three days later. Mr Rudderham's daughter Bethany Beaumont, 19, said: "They've destroyed an innocent life for no reason. It was disgusting. It was slander. His mother Carol Matthews said: "I want to know why someone did something like that. I hope they rot in hell. It took a person's life. We will never get over it". We hear a great deal about the police identifying and prosecuting people who commit so-called 'hate crimes' on social media, but as far as I have been able to discover, no one was identified as responsible for this hounding of a man to death. But, then, it was only a man. This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused's suicide.

14/13: Luke King (deceased)

2014: **Luke King**, 23, was accused of rape and was detained for two days until [the accusation was thrown out](#). He struggled with depression and drugs before committing suicide by hanging himself four years later. [His sister revealed](#) that her brother suffered "dark moments" in the aftermath of the accusation and the court heard he turned to drugs to "block things out." This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused suicide.

14/14: Garry Parnell (deceased)

2014: [Garry Parnell](#), 51, was a wheelchair users after having had a leg amputated. He was accused of an historic sex offence. The accusing woman was aware that Garry was about to come into a substantial sum of money due to a pay out on an accident compensation claim. Mr Parnell's wife, who was convinced this was a false allegation, testified that the accuser had said she would stop the allegation if she received £50,000. Mr Parnell was depressed at the many months the police were taking to sort out the matter. The final straw was being called to be 'intimately examined' (requested by the CPS). Instead, Mr Parnell opted to throw himself off a motorway bridge. There is no mention that his accuser has been investigated for blackmail or false accusation. This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused suicide.

14/15: Anonymous York Woman and Non-Existent Man

2014: Police investigating a serious sexual assault in York have now established that it did not take place. The [19-year-old local woman](#), who claimed she had been assaulted on Friargate at around 9pm on Thursday 21 August 2014, has admitted that she made a false report to the police. Officers are now considering whether the woman will face any police action. Detective Chief Inspector Matt Walker, York CID, said: The withdrawal of this allegation follows a detailed and thorough investigation by detectives. *(No further information available).*

14/16: Kelly Harwood



2014: [Kelly Harwood](#), 43, had drunken consensual sex with the 30-year-old son of a friend on a camp bed set up in her friend's kitchen. But she felt guilty afterwards and so she called the police and lied to officers by claiming that she had been raped. Her victim was subjected to an intrusive medical examination and interviewed under caution. Harwood eventually admitted she had not told the truth when she was questioned again two days later. She was charged with wasting police time, admitted the offence and was awarded a one year prison sentence.

14/17: A 13 Year Old Girl

2014: [A 13 year old girl in Sussex](#) claimed she had been violently raped after being dragged into an alleyway. This led to a year long police investigation costing tens of thousands of pounds and including the issuing of an e-fit picture of the attacker in 2014. The girl claimed the attack had taken place some weeks before she reported it, so her injuries had healed. It was all pure fiction, as the girl eventually admitted. Her reasons for inventing the story are unknown – one presumes for attention. She faced no charges and remains anonymous – more understandable in this case than in many others in view of her age. But one wonders whether she was ultimately contrite.

14/18: Michelle Rossiter



2014: [Michelle Rossiter](#), 34, made a series of false claims to police between July 2010 and May 2011, alleging she was sexually abused by the man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, for almost a year. An innocent man had been arrested, detained in police custody and questioned over an 11-hour period. He then had to endure the weight of allegations for a significant amount of time. Despite having the opportunity to withdraw her story, Rossiter went further and produced false evidence to support it. But later she admitted to officers some of her claims were untrue. She denied perverting the course of justice but was convicted by a jury of 11 men and one woman and was jailed for three years. Valerie Wise, director of Preston Domestic Violence Service, said, *“Malicious allegations are rare. I believe 99 per cent of people who make complaints are telling the truth but it is difficult to prove. The CPS doesn’t proceed to prosecution if they believe there is a less than 50 per cent chance of conviction - the standard is very high”*.

14/19: Phil Jackson and Theresa Hughes



2014: A mother, [Theresa Hughes, started a smear campaign](#) against primary school headteacher, Phil Jackson, by spreading false rumours that he had sexually abused her nine year old daughter, Gabriella. Hughes, 39, sent a letter to Mr Jackson and made a number of ‘phone calls to the school, as well as telling other mothers that Mr Jackson had been suspended ‘for touching’. Jackson said he had found the allegations ‘as stressful as being diagnosed with cancer’. Hughes’s gripe with Mr Jackson appears to have started when Gabriella asked to talk to Mr Jackson but apparently did not receive immediate attention. Theresa Hughes was tried for the offence in 2014, which she admitted. [The magistrate said](#), “you’ve come very very close to a suspended sentence. I think you must realise just how close you came to a suspended term of imprisonment”. She was sentenced to a 12 month community order with supervision and ordered to complete 80 hours of unpaid work at the same court.

14/20: Anonymous Man and Anonymous Woman (anecdotal)

2014: This anecdotal, taken from J4MB (2/5/14) (email from a supporter G). I include it because it is illustrative.

As you will remember, I told you some time ago that my son had been falsely accused of raping his ex-fiancée. The two were in bed together at the time, and both were in their underwear! The accusation was she had fallen asleep, they had sex, and she had been unable to give consent because she was asleep!

After twenty months of hell the Judge ended the trial after just over an hour. Due to the fact we were not allowed in court during her evidence, our solicitor explained that she'd openly admitted on the stand that she'd made up the asleep bit in order to justify the accusation. No crime had actually been committed, and furthermore she freely admitted she hadn't wanted police action to go as far as it did, she just wanted my son to get a ticking-off because he'd upset her during an argument earlier in the day.

Our solicitor says that in all probability no action will be taken against this girl despite the fact she's openly admitted to wasting police and court time, not to mention her legal aid. After the trial finished, my son and I were walking back to our hotel, and his accuser walked past and cheerily said, 'Hi!' to both of us.

14/21: June Plunkett



2014: [June Plunkett](#), 40, claimed she been attacked by a man whilst crossing waste ground on her way to the shops. She claimed he had grabbed her by the throat from behind and forced her to the ground. She said he had slashed her across the chest and abdomen before raping her. It turned out she had slashed herself with a blade and made up the story of an attack and rape. The allegation was made in 2006 and DNA tests were traced to a man who, it was later accepted, had had consensual sex with the woman. Only years later was the case re-opened and ultimately she admitted lying. She was jailed for 9 months.

14/22: Victor Nealon



2014: I quote from the [blog of solicitor advocate Mark Newby](#): “In January 1997 Victor Nealon began a discretionary life sentence which would see him serve 17 years in custody. Last Friday he started his new life, on the streets of Birmingham and with nowhere to stay after the State had washed its hands of him. What does it say about our society that we simply turn out men like Victor Nealon onto the street after 17 years.....he will now face the prospect of mounting a claim for compensation in an atmosphere in which the Secretary of State for Justice is seeking to narrow the test for compensation. We should have a system in place for cases like this where those released are fully supported and receive urgent interim financial support. Disturbingly the State will instead put every hurdle in the way of Victor Nealon as he fights to have his life restored. The judgment and the back story behind this case serves as a depressing epitaph for the criminal justice system and its complete lack of progress since the notorious miscarriages on the late 1980s and early 1990s”.

Mr Nealon, a postman, had been unjustly convicted of attempted rape and wrongfully imprisoned for life. He had been in jail for 17 years. In 2014, after his conviction was finally quashed, Mr Nealon was discharged from Wakefield prison with £46 and nowhere to stay. He spent his first night of freedom as [a homeless man on the streets](#). Makes you proud to be British, doesn't it?

Most of the false allegation cases in this compilation relate either to events which had never taken place, or to consensual sex which was later claimed to be non-consensual. In this case there has been no suggestion that the complainant was untruthful or that her claims were inaccurate. This is a case of simply convicting the wrong man.

The victim was subjected to an attempted rape outside a nightclub. The attacker had been seen in the night club hours before and was described as having a noticeable lump to his forehead and a strong Scottish accent. After the attack he made his escape.

Victor Nealon had never been to the nightclub in question. Mr Nealon is of Irish extraction and has a strong Irish accent. Although he has a facial disfigurement, this is due to serious acne. He has no 'lump'. His misfortune was to be living in the area as someone who had in the past been convicted of offences. So he was arrested.

Some weeks after his arrest Nealon was asked to stand on an ID parade which he readily volunteered to do. The ID parade failed to follow the required procedures. The police officer leading the case was present at the ID parade and spoke to at least one of the witnesses. This contravenes procedure because of the possibility of influencing the witness, deliberately or accidentally. Oddly, the complainant herself did not attend the ID parade. One witness picked out Mr Nealon but stressed that the man involved had a strong Scottish accent. Other witnesses failed to pick out the applicant, including the victim's friend who helped compile an e-fit picture.

Mr Nealon was at home with his partner and daughter at the time of the offence. He thus had an alibi, but the prosecution mounted an attack on this alibi in court over the alibis' error in correctly

naming the videos they had watched that night. The defence team were unaware of this evidence before trial and so had not the opportunity to present their own version of the issue.

But most the most serious failure was in respect of DNA evidence. Mr Nealon had provided DNA samples to the police officer involved with leading the case and understood this was to facilitate testing against the woman's clothing. Not only did that testing not occur but the exhibits, apart from a skirt, remained in their sealed evidence bags. Staggeringly, the court was not given the true position over the lack of forensic testing in the case.

The DNA testing was finally done only in 2009, twelve years after Mr Nealon had been convicted and sent to prison. The DNA present in all key intimate areas was that of an unknown male and not Victor Nealon. It would be another five year before he would be exonerated by the Court of Appeal. Finally, in 2014, the Court of Appeal concluded in its judgment noted: *'the jury may reasonably have reached the conclusion, based on the DNA evidence, that it was a real possibility that the "unknown male" – and not the appellant – was the attacker.'* If the DNA testing had been done in 1997 then a man would not have lost 17 years of his life. But in 1998 and 2002 the Criminal Cases Review Commission had refused to carry out the DNA tests.

Quoting Mark Newby, "All of this conduct – the failure to undertake the DNA assessments, the misleading of the court, the collection of late rebuttal evidence and presence of the officer at the ID Parade – are all indicative of a disturbing approach to building a case against Victor Nealon at all costs. Had those involved with the case chosen instead to investigate the case in a fair and open manner then the result would have been very different."

The euphoria of his release now some years past, Victor Nealon's life is grim. His parents died while he was in jail and his partner and daughter moved on. He lives alone. Prospective employers treat him with suspicion. He lives on benefits.

After 17 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, Mr Nealon's application for [compensation was turned down](#). He appealed, but to no avail. He was [turned down again](#).

He sees his doctor once or twice weekly and gets medication to help him through the nightmares. His medical problems stem from his treatment in prison. *"It's one thing to lose your friends, family, freedom, money and job. It's quite another to be told that if you don't confess to the crime you'll never be released,"* he said. He maintained his innocence even though it cost him an extra seven years in prison.

He had three hours' notice of his release, was given a train ticket and £46.

14/23: Joanna Robertson

2014: [Joanna Robertson](#), 25, went to the police and named a man who she claimed had tried to strike up a conversation with her outside a bank before following her into Coutties Wynd. Robertson claimed he had then forced her against a wall between two wheelie bins before touching her over her tights and attempting to assault her further. Her clothes were taken as evidence. The man was held in custody for questioning for 12 hours.

Robertson twice told police in interviews that the assault had taken place as she claimed, despite officers casting doubts on her story. When police carried out a CCTV review after the first interview, they found her story didn't add up. The footage proved she had not entered the area where she claimed the assault took place. The CCTV did reveal, however, that Robertson was very drunk at the time, and staggering about. At the second interview she had the chance to retract her claims, but she did not. When the inconsistencies were put to her, she demanded her clothes back and said she didn't want any more police involvement. She only admitted her guilt at court last month. She was jailed for 6 months.

13/1: Linsey Attridge



In 2013, single mother [Linsey Attridge, 31](#), falsely accused two strangers of raping her in a bid to win back her boyfriend. Her relationship with ex-partner Nick Smith was looking like it was coming to an end. In an attempt to garner sympathy from him, and rejuvenate the relationship, Attridge claimed that two men had broken into her house and attacked her. She even punched herself in the face and ripped her own clothing to make her story seem more credible.

Attridge then spent three days trawling social networking sites so she could hand over profiles of the men she claimed were responsible to police. Two men were subsequently detained, questioned and had to undergo intrusive forensic and medical examinations because of her claims. Nick Smith, essentially the victim of moral blackmail, spent weeks comforting Attridge, understandably sympathetic about her supposed ordeal. But after two months the police dropped the case against the men because there was no evidence to support the allegations. Attridge ultimately confessed that the claim was a malicious lie – purposely designed to emotionally manipulate one man by legally manipulating two others. She was convicted in the Sheriff's court but not given a jail sentence, instead she was ordered 200 hours of community service.

13/2: Anonymous Bidford Woman

2013: [A BIDFORD woman](#) has admitted that she made a false allegation of sexual assault. A thorough and extensive police investigation was made into the alleged assault, which was reported as happening in Bidford village, but officers have said it had become clear that the allegation was false. Investigating officer said: "The female concerned has withdrawn the allegation admitting it was false and police are confident that the incident did not occur. As a result she has been dealt with formally for wasting police time. We also interviewed a male in connection with the incident and are pleased to say that he has now been totally exonerated."

Warwickshire Police force has also issued a statement to say that thorough and detailed investigations are always made into all alleged sexual assaults, and false allegations are likely to be identified. *I am baffled as to how they can make that claim.*

13/3: Elizabeth Jones



In 2013 [Elizabeth Jones, 22](#), was finally jailed after making her 11th rape allegation over a ten year period. She had been inventing attacks since the age of 13. Her latest innocent victim was held under arrest for nine hours. When asked why she falsely accused the man, compulsive liar Jones told police: "I didn't like him." Jones made more than eight allegations between 2005 and 2007, all of which police investigated and found no substantiating evidence. Police brought no charges against the men she accused and neither was she charged. Then in 2009, she was given a 10-month detention and training order for another similar offence.

The latest claim came last year, when she persuaded a friend to make an initial report to police. Jones then went to a police station for a medical examination and repeated her allegation. A man was arrested but he strenuously denied the rape allegation. He was found to be innocent when detectives viewed CCTV coverage of the street where Jones claimed she had been taken. The footage showed clearly she was not forcibly taken to a house there as she had claimed.

She was then arrested and accepted she had lied about being raped. She said she did it because she "did not like him." She had been dating the man she had accused. She had an argument with him and fabricated the story against him. Jones admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice. The judge described the accused man's ordeal as a "terrible emotional experience". The offence was doubly serious as it struck at the heart of the criminal justice system, he added.

13/4: Gaynor Cooke

2013: In 2003, [Gaynor Cooke](#) had consensual sex with a man whilst in a long-term relationship with another man. To cover up her infidelity she made up a story that she had been raped by an unidentified taxi driver. The innocent man was found 8 years later when he provided a DNA sample for an unrelated and minor offence. The police contacted Cooke who confirmed that she was pleased a suspect had been identified and wanted to proceed with a prosecution. Cooke originally kept up her lie when visited by a policewoman, saying she intended to proceed with her complaint and had nothing to add to her original statements. But the truth ultimately emerged when detectives received information that Cooke had lied to conceal her infidelity, and Cooke then admitted her lie. The court heard the taxi driver had been suspended from work as a result of the charge. The stress of the court case had taken a toll on his health and he had been unable to return

13/5: Graham Smith (deceased)

2013: [Graham Smith](#), 56, had been accused of molesting a girl 20 years earlier and had been branded a paedophile. He had been cleared in court of the offence, but after the allegations, he became a hermit. He wouldn't go out, he thought people were looking at him and pointing. He was scared of the daylight, that he liked it when it was night and no one could see him. He killed himself by jumping off a bridge. This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused suicide.

13/6: Tom Acton (deceased)

2013: [Tom Acton](#) was a 16-year-old who was falsely accused of rape in retaliation after he stood up to drug dealers preying on pupils in his neighbourhood. He was subsequently hounded by fellow pupils who believed the accusations. He hanged himself. [As a postscript: [Fatimah Ahmed](#), 30, a former maths teacher at the same school, was given an 18-week sentence suspended for two years after she pleaded guilty to one count of concealing, disguising, converting, transferring or removing criminal property between November 2010 to February 2013 relating to drugs money put into her bank account by her husband]. This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused suicide.

13/7: Natasha Foster



2013: [Natasha Foster](#), 23, was described as a 'compulsive liar', who falsely accused a former boyfriend (Mr X) of rape, essentially in revenge for ungallant behaviour in rejecting her. He had ended their on-off relationship by text. Foster already had a new boyfriend at the time, but she still harboured the hope of a reconciliation with her former lover, Mr X. In the circumstances it is not unreasonable that he had different ideas. Miffed, Foster told her new boyfriend, and later the police, that Mr X had raped her. This resulted in Mr X being arrested and spending nearly 12 hours in custody. However, two days later, 'in the sober light of two dawns', Foster went to police and confessed that any sex was consensual. She was sentenced to three months (a sentence halved from 6 months due to having become a mother in the interim).

13/8 Philip Prynnl (deceased)

In 2013, [Philip Prynn](#), aged 38, locked himself inside his pickup truck, poured a can of petrol over himself and set himself alight. He had been accused of rape by a woman, and had then been dumped by his girlfriend. Extracts from a statement by Steve Bowen read to the Coroner's Court are as follows:

"By far the greatest weight on Philip's mind at the time, the thing that stripped him of his dignity, the thing that destroyed his self-esteem, the thing that hurt him more than anything had ever hurt him before, was a false accusation of rape that was hanging over his head like the Sword of Damocles. I have the proof on my phone that [the accuser] was not at all traumatised, nor too drunk, nor even passed out at the time of the alleged rape, but she did succeed in her objective of splitting up Phil from his girlfriend. I believe that Phil even reported these allegations to the police before the woman decided to, as they were so blatantly false.

This is a woman who, I understand, has cried rape on at least two occasions before. She even accused her husband of it, leading to him attempting to take his own life. Not only did she make these accusations public, she then caused graffiti to appear in many of Phil's regular haunts, accusing him of being a rapist in the certain knowledge that word would get around.

The police had interviewed him whilst deciding whether or not there was a case to answer. This false and malicious accusation from a vindictive woman intent on causing misery to Phil certainly worked. He lost his girlfriend, his house and more importantly his pride. He was destroyed and it was the major factor in pushing his self-destruct button. Can I ask the coroner therefore if he has any information as to whether or not this woman has been fully and properly investigated? It is not enough to just drop the charge and sweep it under the carpet as unsolved.

I have the proof on my phone that it was all a pack of lies. She is known to the emergency services as her previous accusations against another man, her husband, must be documented.

So what is being done to serve the cause of justice in actually clearing Phil's name and in bringing to account a woman whose vile actions led directly to the death of Mr Prynn. It is not acceptable for the police to conclude that Phil has no case to answer. This is a dangerous and manipulative woman who needs to be stopped from ruining people's lives."

A spokeswoman for the police said: "An allegation of a serious sexual offence was made and was being investigated. Mr Prynn was arrested and bailed. This investigation ceased following his death. The force treats all reports of rape and sexual offences very seriously and they are investigated accordingly. The female is not being investigated for making a false allegation of rape." This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused suicide.

13/9: Charmaine Ripley

2013: [Charmaine Ripley](#), 26, told police she was attacked and raped in a Park as she walked home drunk from a nightclub. More than 30 police officers were involved in the investigation into her claim that she was raped by a man with a Kosovan or Albanian accent in the early hours. Police conducted house-to-house investigations, speaking with residents who were clearly alarmed and worried about an attack which, as it transpired, had never occurred. She admitted the attack did not happen when officers raised inconsistencies in her account. She was given a 120-day prison sentence, but suspended for a year. She was also ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work and made the subject of a supervision order.

13/10: Aleishia Katrina Worrell and Sean Hibberd



2013: [Aleishia Katrina Worrell](#), 20, claimed she had been abducted by a masked Sean Hibberd, tied to a lamppost and brutally raped in broad daylight, being released only three hours later. Mr Hibberd spent nine hours behind bars and underwent intimate examinations. When police realised her story was full of holes Worrell owned up to her lies. She admitted perverting the course of justice. She was sent to a young offender institution for 18 months (at 20?).

13/11: Cathy Richardson



2013: [Cathy Richardson](#), 26, claimed, on two occasions, that she had been sexually assaulted several times over a two month period by a man known to her. Subsequently, a man in his 20s from the Southend area was arrested on suspicion of rape. He had to spend time in a custody cell and was obliged to undergoing an intrusive personal medical examination. But later he was released without charge following police interviews. Richardson was later arrested and charged with perverting the course of justice. She was convicted and sentenced to 12 months in prison.

13/12: Leanne Black



2013: [Leanne Black](#), 32, made false rape allegations against each of her five boyfriends, one after the other in the eight year period from 2005 to 2013. In 2005 she made a rape allegation against boyfriend No.1 but the case did not proceed due to conflicting evidence. In 2006 she accused partner No.2 of raping her twice but later admitted that she had made it up and the case was dropped. In 2009 she claimed she had been the victim of a serious sexual assault by boyfriend No.3 but later, when she was spoken to by officers, she could not confirm anything had happened. Then, in 2010, Black contacted police to say she had been drugged and raped repeatedly by boyfriend No.4 over a two-week period. She was only arrested in March this year when she told police she had been raped by boyfriend No.5, Kevin Crowley, while she was sleeping. But officers had actually been called to the couple's flat by Mr Crowley himself after Black had thrown plates at him. This sounds like a classic example of what happens when a man is subject to partner abuse by a woman. She turns the tables by claiming to be the victim (DARVO). So...he was arrested on suspicion of rape and detained at a police station where he was intimately examined. But Black later admitted she had made it up. One has to admit that the police got it right on the previous four occasions when they did not pursue these false allegations further. But on the other hand nothing was done to discourage her from making further false allegations. She was finally jailed for two years, but a false accusers register would seem appropriate in these circumstances.

13/13: Philippa Costello



2013: [Philippa Costello](#), 28, claimed she had been raped by a soldier. She had gone on a date with a friend of the soldier, but the man had gone off with another woman. The soldier had tried to comfort Costello as she stood crying outside the club. But later she accused him of rape. He was arrested and held for 15 hours, had intimate samples taken, and had to wait two months before the investigation against him was dropped. He said the difficulties he had encountered with 'whispering' about the charge in his community had led to the breakdown of his relationship, including with his daughter. Costello continued with her cruel lie even when town centre CCTV footage proved the man was innocent. She did not confess until she was due to go on trial last month on a charge of doing an act tending or intended to pervert the course of justice. [She was sent to prison for 8 months.](#)

13/14 Charlene Seel

2013: [Charlene Seel](#), 22, cheated on her boyfriend and then cried rape after having sex with a man she met in a pub. She was jailed for 14 months for false rape allegation. After meeting the man in a pub, Seel told her friend she fancied him. Later on she kissed him. She left with the man and returned some time later, saying to her friend: "I've done it". At that point she didn't appear in distress but said she had cheated on her boyfriend and her life would be over if he found out. Seel tried to persuade the man concerned to say that it was some other woman he had slept with. Mr Urquhart said the man involved in the allegations cooperated with police and gave a full account of consensual sexual intercourse having taken place which was in accordance with the account given by Seel's own friends. In court Sheriff Gilchrist said the social work reports caused him concern because although Seel had formally pleaded guilty, what was contained in the reports amounted to a plea of not guilty and she had shown no remorse.

12/1: Kirsty Sowden



In 2012, [Kirsty Sowden, 21](#), told police she had been raped by a stranger after she left a sports centre. The police spent hundreds of hours investigating the claim, costing about £14,000. But she later admitted making the false complaint because she felt guilty about a sado-masochism session she had with a man at his home. Sowden had placed an advert on a "no strings" dating website calling herself a "BDSM princess" - standing for bondage, domination, sado-masochism. A man had responded to her advert and they had arranged for her to go to his flat and be dominated. She willingly took part in the kinky sex which ensued, but it seems she hit upon a scheme to relieve herself of the subsequent guilt by making the rape accusation. An innocent man was first detained by police and then the man she had sex with was arrested in front of his work colleagues.

Sowden was jailed for 14 months after admitting perverting the course of justice. The judge told the defendant: "I see little sign of genuine remorse from you or, indeed, any real understanding of just how serious your actions have been. Perverting the course of justice undermines justice and justice must be upheld. Rape is a dreadful crime. False allegations of rape undermine the plight of genuine victims."

12/2: Beverley Brandreth



2012: [Beverley Brandreth](#), 20, who falsely alleged rape against an ex-boyfriend, was jailed for 20 months. Just occasionally judges give away the truth about how “justice” is done in rape cases. Judge Bernard Lever said “mercifully the accused man had been able to prove his innocence”. Quite. But, judge, isn’t the burden of proof supposed to be on the prosecution?

Brandreth’s first made a false claim the year before saying that a man had raped her when she was pregnant and it caused her to lose her baby. That allegation fell apart when it was discovered she was not pregnant at the time but prosecutors advised that no charge be brought against her.

On second occasion she made a false allegation, Brandreth called the police at midnight one night to report she had been raped in an alleyway. Officers attended and spoke to Brandreth who said she had been walking through a wooded area at about 9.30pm that evening when a man approached her and punched her in the face, knocking her unconscious, before raping her. Brandreth named her ‘attacker’ while being interviewed by specially-trained officers and the man was subsequently arrested on suspicion of rape, questioned and had forensic samples taken, spending 30 hours in custody. However, the detective investigating her report discovered a number of inconsistencies in her account and obtained independent evidence that proved she had fabricated the ‘attack’. The man was able to prove he was in a DVD store with his new girlfriend at the time Ms Brandreth claimed he attacked her.

When she was later re-interviewed, Brandreth maintained she had been attacked despite overwhelming evidence proving her account was bogus, and she was subsequently charged with perverting the course of justice. The arrested man was released without charge.

12/3: Hannah Byron



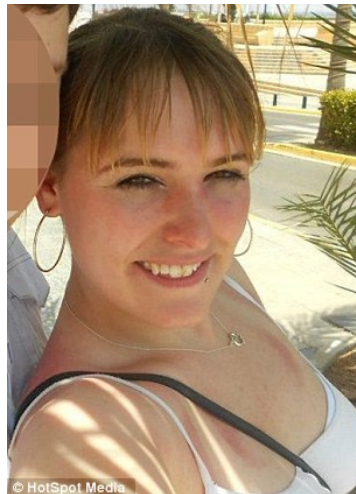
2012: [Hannah Byron, 20](#), a psychology student, claimed she had been raped after she had been seen flirting outside a pub during a night out. She said a man had attacked her on a bridge and gave police a description of him. A suspect was detained for nine hours and interrogated but was able to provide police with evidence to show he was innocent. It transpired that Byron made the rape claim because she was trying to win back a former boyfriend. The police noted that the innocent victim of Byron's claims had been put through an enormous amount of stress through being arrested and questioned over false claims. In 2012, the judge told Byron that she had avoided prison "by a short whisker".

12/4: Emma Saxon



2012: [Emma Saxon, 23](#), told police she was attacked and raped by Martin Blood in his BMW car in a supermarket car park. Officers traced Mr Blood within 20 minutes of the "rape" being reported. The accused man spent 14 hours in a police cell and suffered the indignity of an intimate medical examination while the police spent 90 hours investigating before finally concluding it was a hoax. They had found the car's engine cold and there was a dry patch underneath it where it had been standing in rain. It turned out that Saxon had been stood up by Mr Blood and was exacting revenge. Six years earlier she had made a similar false claim against a former boyfriend and got a community sentence. This time she was jailed for eight months. The judge said: "It is important that people understand a false allegation of rape is a wicked thing to do." The problem, I think, is that some women think it's fair game to get back at a man in this manner.

12/5: Rosie Dodd



2012: [Rosie Dodd, 20](#), claimed three men, aged 21, 23 and 25 raped her when she went back to a house with them after meeting them on a night out in Nottingham. Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Gina Farrell, from Nottinghamshire Police, said: *"We take every report of rape and sexual assault extremely seriously, just as we did in this case. But it soon became apparent that there were inconsistencies with Dodd's account."* Dodd later admitted to police the sex was consensual and she lied because she regretted having sex with the men. Detective Constable Farrell commented, *"The three men accused of rape were quite badly affected by the damaging accusations and Dodd has never shown an ounce of remorse for what she put them through. The time our specially trained officers spent with her could have been spent with someone who really needed our help."* Dodd was charged with perverting the course of justice in 2012 and jailed for two years.

11/1: Jennifer France and Kelly Weston



2011: [Kelly Weston](#), 27, had been out for a meal with her brother's girlfriend, [Jennifer France](#), 24. During the course of the evening they met two Turkish men and spent some time together in a pub and left together. Weston later claimed that she had been raped by one of these men at his home. The following day Jennifer France also informed the police that she too had been raped by the same man, multiple times. The accused man was arrested and kept in custody for 18 hours. But 'photos on the accused man's mobile showed the women were lying. In fact the two had both engaged in consensual sex with the man. The accused man said 'I have faced threats of attack following the allegations and have had sleepless nights. I hope I never see them again because they have ruined my life'. A court heard they made the false allegations because both had long-term boyfriends and were ashamed of what they had done. The judge said that the man had been at risk of a ten year prison sentence and he jailed them for 20 months.

11/2: Charlene Kielty



2011: [Charlene Kielty](#), 23, claimed she was attacked and raped on a bus by the driver in the back of his coach. Kielty had gone to a Health Centre complaining of abdominal pains. She told a doctor she had been raped four days earlier by a bus driver. The doctor arranged for her to be taken to Hospital where further tests were carried out. Swabs were also taken from the bus driver. Kielty repeated her claims during several police interviews, but the officers noticed inconsistencies in her story. The results of forensic tests showed no link between Kielty and the driver. It was more than a year before Kielty admitted that the allegation had been a lie. She was jailed for 18 months.

11/3: Tony Hunt and Anonymous Other Persons

Fasten your seat belts, this is going to be a rocky ride - starring a cameo appearance by our favourite Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Vera Baird.

2011: [Tony Hunt](#), who had formerly been a magistrate for seven years, was finally (in 2006) cleared of raping a colleague. He had spent two years in prison having initially been convicted. But his troubles were not over. Now he faced bankruptcy due to legal costs. He had had a brief fling with a married colleague. He did not expect that he would be accused of raping the woman seven years later. But it was not the supposed victim who made the initial accusation. It was one of her friends, also a colleague of Mr Hunt, who just happened to be the subject of a disciplinary investigation by Mr Hunt at the time.

Shockingly, the police persuaded the "victim", who just happened to be a special constable with the force, to give evidence. Hunt was arrested, charged, found guilty of rape, and sentenced to four years in prison.

Recognising that his predicament was due to his failure to appreciate the need to prove his innocence in our brave new feminist world, Mr Hunt himself launched an appeal for fresh evidence to back up his claim that, after he had been on duty at the Fordingbridge country show, the woman had invited him into her home for a cup of tea and consented to sex. New witnesses were indeed forthcoming (oddly the police had not found them for the original trial, one presumes they didn't try). These witnesses confirmed that Hunt's accuser had been content to be in his company after the supposed "rape" and did not even change her shifts to avoid working with him.

The appeal court found that the trial judge had misdirected the jury and, after two years behind bars, Mr Hunt's conviction was quashed. He was now a free man, innocent in the eyes of the law.

But Mr Hunt had been sacked from his job after his conviction. He reasonably sought compensation for his two years in prison. The Home Office rejected his claim because he had not proved "beyond reasonable doubt" that there had been a miscarriage of justice. (Do recall that victim compensation is available even when the accused is found not guilty, but apparently no compensation is available to a man who has spent two years in prison despite now being formally declared not guilty).

On legal advice, Mr Hunt then sought financial redress from his accuser (known by the pseudonym Alice Barnes, or AB) via a claim for malicious prosecution. Being now impecunious, Mr Hunt had to remortgage his home, use savings and take out loans to fund his legal battle. But in 2009 the case was thrown out by the civil appeal judges who ruled that AB was not the "prosecutor" and therefore could not be sued for malicious prosecution. Perhaps Mr Hunt was badly advised and should have sued the police or the Crown Prosecution Service.

What poor Tony Hunt did not appreciate when he took out the action against his accuser is that he was about to get in the ring, not with an amateur featherweight, but with Antony Joshua in a bad mood. AB's 'plight' in being so prosecuted found its way to Vera Baird, then Solicitor General, now PCC for Northumbria, and always a hard-line feminist. As a barrister, Baird had been celebrated for her "pioneering work on rape". She was not too keen on rape accusers being prosecuted, the concept of a false rape being anathema to those of her persuasion, all men being guilty by dint of their sex. Baird enlisted the big city lawyers, Hogan Lovells, to take on AB's case at no cost to AB herself. Poor Mr Hunt was now facing serious artillery.

Feminists hunt in packs. [The Guardian](#) allowed the always even-handed and strictly fair-minded Beatrix Campbell to report it thus "*he (Mr Hunt) became an emblem for angry, accused men when he mounted a case that threatened to throw a legal tsunami at the already lamentable prosecution of sex crime.... Hunt decided to sue the woman for £300,000 damages for malicious prosecution. His action was bewildering*". Bewildering? Beatrix Campbell fails to mention that the accusation, as well as landing him in prison for two years, had left Mr Hunt unemployed and broke, and his application for compensation via the usual channels had been turned down. There is nothing bewildering in his seeking an alternative recourse. But then, Campbell failed to mention all the other features of the case which pointed towards Mr Hunt being a victim of a false allegation as well. She would not recognise that as a possibility.

As if as a lesson to other men contemplating an attempt to fight back, Mr Hunt was to be made the target of further punishment. Hogan Lovells, the international law firm that acted for AB on the instigation of the strictly impartial Solicitor General, Vera Baird, sought nearly £500,000 costs from Mr Hunt including the £80,000 which 'AB' spent on lawyers from other firms before Lovells took up the civil case.

Mr Hunt - and his wife Lynn, and their 35-year-old son Paul – had been reduced to financial ruin by a false allegation backed up by the might of the feminist establishment. To rub salt in the wounds, Hogan Lovells was subsequently voted runner-up for the 2010 Wig and Pen prize, awarded by London law societies, for its *pro bono* work on the Hunt case. *Pro bono*? Eh?

Mr Hunt's solicitor said: "Mr Hunt is an innocent man who has been living in a nightmare for the past nine years."

Back in 2008/9 questions were being asked about the role of Vera Baird in the case. Baird had described the ruling against Mr Hunt in the malicious prosecution case as "*good news for the courageous Mrs AB, for women and for the criminal justice system*" because it would encourage women to come forward without fear of being sued for damages if the alleged attacker was eventually acquitted. In a Radio 4 interview in November 2008, defending anonymity for complainants in rape cases, Baird said: "*The point ... is to avoid the shame, the guilt of having to expose that she had been treated in this way and having to be challenged about whether she consented or not.*" Eh? So the guilt of the accused man hinges entirely upon the complainant's consent, but she must not be challenged on whether she consented or not? And this woman is a barrister?

That's all you need to know about feminist jurisprudence.

Robert Walter, then Conservative MP for North Dorset, who was backing Mr Hunt, said he would ask the Attorney General to investigate Baird's role and examine whether she had in any way abused her position by asking Hogan Lovells to take up AB's case. Mr Walter said the law firm should not pursue Mr Hunt for costs "since they were doing the work *pro bono* and he was acquitted in the criminal case. He also had a strong civil case, including fresh evidence that was ruled to be inadmissible by the judge."

Lord Newby, a Liberal Democrat peer, also wrote to the law firm asking them to drop the action. He wrote: "If you were successful ... you would not only effectively bankrupt Mr Hunt – an innocent man – but would be doing so on the basis of what appears to be a cynical and unethical approach to business." They refused. Good try, Lord Newby, but did you expect ethics to get between lawyers and their money?

The case left all sorts of loose ends, including an allegation that a prosecution witness in the original trial committed perjury and a claim that the CPS withheld crucial evidence from the first trial. In 2011 a partner at Hogan Lovells was sacked following an investigation by the firm into £1 million false expenses claims made over four years. As of 2013, [Mr Hunt was still pursuing justice and an apology from the police](#).

11/4: Emma Blunden and Four Named Men



2011: [Emma Blunden](#), 21, was finally exposed as a serial rape liar. A total of four men were accused in two separate allegations. All were innocent.

Blunden first claimed that she had been raped by James Mabey, 26, in a hostel where she was living. Police arrested Mr Mabey who was questioned for 17 hours before police realised he was innocent and released him. Blunden had boasted about having sex with Mr Mabey and sent him a text message to apologise for getting him arrested. She was then arrested herself and interviewed about her false allegations but released so that police could investigate further.

While out on bail Blunden went to a party and flirted with a man before letting three men have sex with her in a communal bathroom, one after another. She then left the party and dialled 999 to say that her train fare money had been stolen before saying she had been gang raped by three men - Shane Roberts, 23, Craig Pilime and Colin McDonagh, both 21. They were all taken in to custody and were questioned for up to 13 hours each, before they were released without charge.

Blunden was handed two consecutive 12 month prison sentences for perverting the course of justice and was told she would face a minimum of one year in prison.

11/5: Anonymous Boy and Anonymous Girl - 3

2011: A 15 year old girl accuses a 14 year old boy of rape. There is witness evidence it was consensual and the girl is prosecuted. Rape activists are incensed. Read the [Guardian account here](#). A Women Against Rape spokeswoman said: "*We are particularly horrified by the fact that in this case she is so young*". That the accused boy was even younger clearly did not concern her. She added that these prosecutions "*reinforce the sexist view that women commonly lie about rape*".

11/6: Keeley Horrocks



2011: [Keeley Horrocks](#), 20, admitted perverting the course of justice and was jailed for two years. Horrocks reported that she had been raped and underwent a full medical examination. The man she accused of the attack was held and questioned and his home was searched. However, it emerged that the allegation had been made after the man had texted the woman's ex-boyfriend. This was the reason for her allegation. She had told a series of malicious lies in a bid to save her relationship with the man she was trying to get back with. The victim of the false allegation said he was put through a humiliating and traumatic ordeal and was still suffering from the indignity of that experience. "*This whole affair has changed my life,*" he said. "*As a single father, I could have lost my daughter. She has shown no remorse toward me, but has had plenty of opportunities to admit to what she has done. Sorry would have gone a long way.*"

11/7: Amanda Moyse

2011: Amanda Moyse, 42, was jailed for one year with a second year suspended after pleading guilty to perverting the course of justice. She had claimed to have been raped twice by property landlord Martin Jepson, 52, when in fact the pair had a consensual three-day affair, during which time she had moved to his house. The false allegation left a Mr Jepson's life in tatters, a court heard last week. He was arrested out of the blue and held in custody for 23 hours. His house was searched and his clothes were seized by police - he was subjected to a full intimate search. During the investigation, officers realised she was not telling the truth. They found CCTV footage showing her happily going to and from Mr Jepson's flat plus "affectionate" text and voice messages she sent over the three days. Two months later she admitted the deceit, saying the sex had been consensual.

11/8: Nicola Osborne



2011: [Nicola Osborne](#), 32, said she had been put into a car and raped in a public toilet. This led to the arrest of the man with whom she had had consensual sex. Portsmouth Crown Court heard police used a "vast deployment" of manpower. Osborne, who had been drinking, struck up a conversation with a stranger in the street. She went home with him where they engaged in extensive sexual activity. But as she walked home the mother-of-three, from Winchester Road, became upset as she realised the potential consequences on her marriage. Passers-by found her in a distressed state in the street and contacted police. She then told officers she had been raped. The police spent a total of 548 hours on her case, putting other cases aside to deal with it. A 26-year-old man was arrested after DNA samples taken from Osborne matched those taken from him for a minor criminal offence. He spent 12 hours in custody. Osborne was jailed for 18 months after admitting to perverting the course of justice.

11/9: Rebecca Howard

2011: [Rebecca Howard](#), 20, said two men abducted her, put her in a car and drove her to a place where one of them raped her. She later admitted she had made it up and pleaded guilty to wasting police time. Magistrates sentenced her to 120 days in prison but suspended for 24 months, and 200 hours' unpaid work. She was also given a 12 month supervision order and ordered to pay £1,000 compensation.

11/10: Susan Bradley

2011: [Susan Bradley](#), 41, a mother of five, reported that she had been raped by two East European men on wasteland near her home in the early hours. Panic spread through her community and the resulting ethnic tensions led to street violence. A businesswoman in the area said: 'East Europeans were targeted and beaten up after the woman said she had been raped by men from there'. The police launched a major investigation with extra patrols in the area. But despite the arrest of two suspects, the crime remained unsolved and angry residents confronted police chiefs at a public meeting to voice fears for their safety. But eventually the supposed 'victim', Bradley, admitted to police that the attack never took place. Instead of being taken to court for perverting the course of justice and facing a jail sentence, she escaped with an £80 fixed penalty for wasting police time. On this occasion it was not the alleged victim who complained at her lenient treatment, but the local people who were furious at having been unnecessarily alarmed and fooled into unjustified discriminatory behaviour. Julie Lindley, who runs a hairdressing salon in the area, said: 'Her rape claim had the community up in arms. She had our support and sympathy and we all pressed the police to catch the attackers. I am appalled that somebody would make up such an offence.'

10/1: Olumide Fadayomi and Anonymous Woman 1



2010: This case is a real shocker. It illustrates, incidentally, that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was already suspect, or simply incompetent, well before Alison Saunders took over as Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). This one happened on Keir Starmer's watch.

Many of the case histories listed here name the false accuser. But in general the name of the accuser is known only if they are themselves prosecuted. In sex offence trials, the alleged victim is anonymous in perpetuity. Consequently, where the accuser was never prosecuted, her name remains unknown.

[The woman claimed medical student Olumide Fadayomi attacked her](#) in a house he shared with other students after she met him in a city centre nightspot. Mr Fadayomi told the jury the woman had agreed to consensual sex and he had no idea it was a rape trap. One of the woman's friends, who was also in the night club the evening the pair met, told the court the woman danced and kissed Mr Fadayomi boasting: "I'm going to have his body tonight." Later the woman was to boast to friends: "I've got evidence this time."

After being cleared Mr Fadayomi said: "My life has been hell for the last seven months. I thought about taking my own life. I've not been able to sleep properly since all this happened. My life has just been on hold."

Judge Patrick Robertshaw attacked the Crown Prosecution Service for pursuing a case "*that should never have come to court*" simply because the woman demanded it. He continued, "*The evidence did not, and was never going to, prove rape. The prime overriding consideration in the CPS's decision had been merely that the complainant wished the case to go ahead. It was little short of a craven abdication of responsibility for making an independent and fair-minded assessment of the case. It is quite astonishing these decisions are made by those who simply do not have experience of what happens in Crown Court because they never come into Crown Court. They sit behind desks and make decisions that result in this sort of trial.*"

Mr Fadayomi was cleared by the jury of rape in just 45 minutes after a trial costing £30,000 in 2010.

What the jury were unaware of when they found Mr Fadayomi not guilty was that he was not the first man to have been accused of rape by this same woman. After the jury announced their verdict, the judge revealed how 18 months earlier the same woman had made an allegation of rape against a young man who ended up committing suicide – despite the fact that the case would never have gone to court because it was lacking in credibility. The court heard that after failing to have the first

man she accused of rape brought to court, the woman set about framing Mr Fadayomi, a stranger she met and seduced in a nightclub.

Despite being exposed in court as a serial liar the woman, then 21, will never be identified. As far as I have been able to discover, she was never prosecuted.

Lawyer Nick Freeman commented: "Women can make whatever allegations they like knowing the man will suffer the ignominy of having his name dragged through the mud while nobody will ever know who she is, no matter what lies she tells."

After this case there were (yet again) calls for anonymity for the accused. In fact the coalition government in 2010 had planned to bring such legislation. However, two senior South Yorkshire Labour MPs, Rosie Winterton and Caroline Flint, led an Early Day Motion condemning the move, gathering over 50 MPs' signatures. Their "argument" was that anonymity for the accused could send a message to juries and rape victims that "the victim is not to be believed". (Why? I can see no connection). Ms Flint said, "My concern is how it may act against convicting rapists in the future. Often we don't get the conviction rate we would like to see in these type of cases". I find it deeply disturbing that people running the country have a mindset such as is revealed by these remarks. They truly do not care about sending innocent men to prison – or driving them to suicide.

10/2: Lindsay Gorman

2010: [Lindsay Gorman](#) went to police two years earlier claiming she had been raped in the city's Botanic Gardens. It caused widespread alarm among female students in the university area. An 18-year-old man was charged with the rape, but was later freed after Gorman admitted she had concocted the story. The Court heard that Gorman had had consensual sex with two different men on the night she claimed she had been raped. Her lawyer said that Gorman was deeply ashamed of what she had done and for subjecting an innocent man to the rigours of the law through a totally despicable allegation. She was jailed for nine months.

10/3: Gemma Scoones



2010: [Gemma Scoones](#), 27, reported to an ambulance crew that she had been raped. She was taken to hospital where she repeated the allegations, despite being challenged about her account. Medical examinations were carried out at the hospital and police searched her home. However, the officers were unable to find any evidence that the attack had actually happened. When officers asked her again about her story, she told them she had made it up. The previous year Scoones had been given a 12-month jail sentence by the court after she admitted a similar offence involving a false rape allegation against her estranged husband, Anthony Scoones, following the break up of their relationship. She was convicted again for perverting the course of justice. The Judge told her that it was a serious offence, an 'atrocious allegation', that deserved an automatic custodial sentence. But he added, 'what saves you from an immediate (custodial) sentence is that I see you are heavily pregnant and it would not be fair on your child to be born in prison'. She got 12 months suspended.

10/4: Alexander Lewis and Friends and Anonymous Girl

2010: [Alexander Lewis](#), 20, and two of his friends were accused of rape by a girl. The girl flagged down a police officer in the early hours of the morning claiming she had been dragged to a house by five Polish males. There, she said, she was taken to the attic where she had been raped. She was taken to the specialist suite in the town's local police station where she was examined by a police surgeon. The man she accused, Alexander Lewis, was arrested and spent hours in a police station and had intimate samples taken. His two friends, also both aged 20, were arrested at the same time and also spent 36 hours in the police station and had samples taken.

It all started when the teenage girl had gone out with a friend to Merthyr Tydfil town centre after arguing with her boyfriend. She had sustained some minor injuries which she later claimed occurred during the alleged rape. But in relaying her story, her account changed, and when she was video interviewed, it changed for the third time. It all fell apart during the police interview when her false story started to unravel and she admitted that she had made the whole thing up.

In truth, the girl had been drinking when she met Mr Lewis and his two friends. Far from being dragged away, CCTV footage taken in the centre on the night showed the teenager getting very close to Mr Lewis and resting her head on his shoulder, before a taxi took them to the house party where they had consensual sex. She said that she had made the false allegation because she was scared her boyfriend would find out she had cheated on him. The girl admitted perverting the course of public justice when she appeared in the dock. The teenage girl was given six months' detention.

10/5: Jacqueline McCammond

2010: [Jacqueline McCammond](#), 18, went to a Police Station to make an allegation in which she said she was raped in a car in the Ballybogey area by another man. Police immediately launched an investigation as well as carrying out door-to-door enquiries and interviews with McCammond. They trawled through CCTV images and also made enquiries about the Renault Laguna car in which she alleged the rape occurred. Eventually though - several weeks later - McCammond admitted to police that she made the whole thing up. She had done so to "hurt" her then boyfriend and to get back at him for leaving her. In court on Friday, McCammond admitted a charge of wasting police time. She was put on Probation for a year.

10/6: Roseanne England and Derek Cummings

2010: [Derek Cummings](#), 59, a retired engineer, had never met, and indeed never even heard of, the woman who accused him of rape. But Rosanne England, 21, tore her underwear, scratched her own face and then told police she had been attacked by a stranger who knocked on her door. Mr Cummings met the description – so he'd do. He was duly arrested and detained for 28 hours before being released on bail.

Rosanne England appeared perfectly happy to have Mr Cummings hounded in the press (as he was) and face a long prison stint for a rape that never occurred. She said that Cummings had asked to use her phone and toilet because his car had broken down — only to don a dog mask and rape her.

But the Forensic Science Service discovered that England's clothing had been cut before being torn. After 24 days England finally admitted the allegation was untrue and Mr Cummings was exonerated.

ROSEANNE England's lies sparked a major police operation: 73 members of Hampshire police staff were needlessly diverted; 115 exhibits were seized; 54 statements taken; £6,700 wasted on overtime and £14,000 spent on forensic examinations alone.

Mr Cummings's estranged wife, Cheryl, described the family's ordeal as a nightmare. She observed that the experience has ruined his life and he's changed because it's affected him so much. Mr Cummings said he still had trouble from people around his home in Fawley, Hampshire, who wrongly believe 'there is no smoke without fire'. He said he could not go into certain pubs.

In 2010, Rosanne England was jailed for 18 months.

10/7: Daniel Devennie

2010: **Daniel Devennie** was accused by the same woman who was to accuse Olumide Fadayomi four years later (see above). This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused suicide.

10/8: Gail Sherwood



2010: [Gail Sherwood](#), 52, a mother of two, set up elaborate rape scenes before alerting the police to claim she had been sexually assaulted. She walked to secluded woodland spots and then texted friends to say she was in trouble. On one occasion she was found naked from the waist down, wearing rubber gloves, her mouth covered with gaffer tape and her hands tied behind her. Sherwood told police she was dragged off to woods by a man with a weapon who then raped her. Another time she was found by a police helicopter half-naked behind a fence with white bandage stuffed in her mouth and her hands bound behind her with garden ties. This time she claimed she had been hit over the head, taken to a remote spot in her car and raped. The two incidents were 5 weeks apart.

More than 60 people wrote to the judge insisting that Gail Sherwood had not invented the story and that they believed there was a dangerous sex attacker on the loose. But police began to doubt her and launched a covert surveillance operation that proved she was inventing the attacks. The court was told that many hundreds of police hours had been spent investigating Sherwood's claims and the trial had cost £100,000. She was found guilty of perverting the course of justice after a six-week trial. Sentencing, the Judge said Sherwood's perverted mind had invented a malicious fantasy world. She was a cunning and highly deceitful woman responsible for a huge waste of police resources, he said. [She was sentenced to two years in prison.](#)

As usual, Women Against Rape claimed this was a miscarriage of justice and vowed to campaign for Sherwood's release. The group said it was alarmed at the number of women being prosecuted for false allegations of rape (as opposed to being alarmed at the number of women *making* false allegations of rape).

10/9: Shannon Taylor and Warren Blackwell



2010: [Warren Blackwell](#), 40, spent three years in jail as a convicted sex attacker until his 'victim' was unmasked as a fantasist who had accused [other blameless men](#). We only know the name of the false accuser, Shannon Taylor, because she was [named under Parliamentary privilege](#). She was never prosecuted despite having made seven other false sex attack allegations before that of the unfortunate Mr Blackwell, including one against her father. Taylor apparently kept changing her name and moving, so police forces did not realise they were dealing with the same woman.

Taylor said Mr Blackwell seized her at knifepoint outside a village club early on New Year's Day 1999, marched her down an alleyway and indecently assaulted her. Mr Blackwell was jailed, initially for three years but later increased to five, despite no forensic evidence to back up the claims. Mr Blackwell was jailed simply on the word of Taylor. That is always a very bad basis for justice – but particularly so in this case. Mr Blackwell understandably reacted with fury after learning that police knew all along that the woman was unreliable. A report revealed that officers were told that Taylor was 'unreliable', 'unstable' and craved attention - but **they failed to disclose it at his trial**.

[Shannon Taylor's own mother](#) has described her as "a persistent liar, very manipulative and a bully" who frequently claimed to have been beaten, sexually attacked and raped - all of which were untrue. She has a history of mental illness and self-harm. And Taylor's own daughter said, "she is a danger and the public needs to be warned. She needs prosecuting for what she did. She is every man's worst nightmare." As far as I am aware Taylor was never prosecuted.

After Mr Blackwell was released from prison, the Home Office sent him [a bill for £6,800](#) for his Board & Lodging whilst inside. You really couldn't make this shit up, could you? It's OK, though, they changed their minds later.....they actually charged him £12,500!

10/10: Temitope Adenugba



2010: [Temitope Adenugba](#), 24, was struggling to meet a deadline while studying at Oxford Brookes University last year. So, she falsely claimed a cleaner raped her - so she could get an extension on her university coursework (as one would). She phoned police claiming he had also been subjected to a serious sexual assault the college cleaner, Kunle Ogunmola, 47, as she slept in her college digs. She told the police that Mr Ogunmola had used a key to get into her room to raped her. A full police investigation was launched and the cleaner was quizzed and later arrested. Detectives, however, found any keys taken by Mr Ogunmola had been returned before the date in question and he would not have had access to her room at any time. Adenugba also claimed her victim had been harassing her with phone calls, but analysis of mobile phones showed this was a lie. Adenugba's story was exposed as lies. She had concocted the tale in an attempt to get an extension on her end-of-term coursework. Her victim, Mr Ogunmola, said she had put him through a 'year of hell. She has destroyed my reputation and my confidence'.

The previous year the police had attended Adenugba 's halls of residence after she alleged historic abuse against her as a child.

It turned out that Adenugba had made a fictitious rape complaint against a previous partner in 2006.

Also, she had made the claim against Mr Ogunmola after an earlier false allegation of harassment against the same man 'didn't have the desired effect of extending her time to do her coursework'. Staggeringly, here defence barrister made this observation in mitigation, his point being that 'she was not seeking to directly attack [Mr Ogunmola], he was chosen rather arbitrarily'. Oh, that's OK then. Adenugba was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

9/1: Peter Bacon and Anonymous Woman



2009: According to which report you read, the man formerly known as [Peter Bacon](#), 27 when at trial, was either a 'chef' or a 'graduate', but I believe he was a university student at the time of the incident. The woman who accused him of rape was a 45 year old lawyer. She had drunk up to six bottles of wine that evening. She described herself in court as a 'recreational binge drinker'. Unsurprisingly, she had no memory of what had happened the night before when she awoke in the morning to find Mr Bacon lying in her bed.

The woman claimed that she must have been raped because she was too drunk to have consented to sex. She immediately accused the university student, who was her friend's housemate, of taking advantage of her, shouting that the law had been changed because of 'f***** like you'. Indeed, Peter Bacon was lucky to be found not guilty the way the law stands. But a jury of seven women and four men did indeed acquit him after just 45 minutes deliberation.

Mr Bacon had insisted that he believed the woman had given him a 'come-on' and had flirted with him before they had sex. The woman said she would never have consented to sex with Mr Bacon because he was 'not her type', and she did not feel the need to 'chase after a 20-something man'. She added, 'I'm fussy about the men I date, I'm quite a snob. For example, I would never date a brick-layer.' I am obliged to observe that any sensible brick-layer – or any other man – would best avoid women of her ilk entirely. Clearly an alcoholic, she will never be safe to have sex with.

The experience of being accused of rape and undergoing trial [so traumatised Peter Bacon that he changed his name](#) by deed poll, changed his name in all his documents, and emigrated to Malaysia.

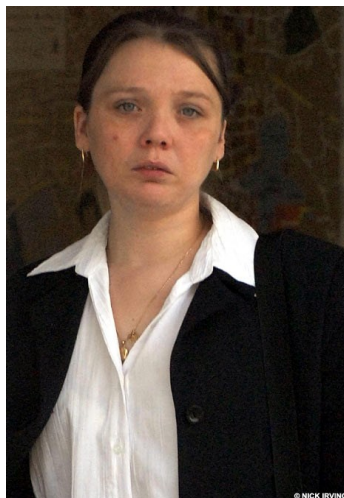
9/2: Ian Adams

2008: [Ian Adams lost his job](#) at IKEA as a result of a false rape accusation sent to his employer in the form of a letter. The malicious letter was littered with spelling mistakes and poor grammar, despite the writer claiming to be a journalist, and contained a false name and address. The fake journalist threatened to write something derogatory about Mr Adams's place of employment. So they gave him the heave-ho. [Adams later committed suicide](#) due to the resulting depression. This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused suicide.

8/1: Ann-Marie Gough

2008: [Ann-Marie Gough](#), 33, admitted making a false statement to police about being raped by two strangers in a car. Gough told police she had a row with her ex-partner on the seafront. When walking home, she said two unknown men forced her into a car and then raped her in a nearby road. A full-time extensive investigation was launched. There were house-to-house enquiries and a doctor examined her. Sixty hours of CCTV footage were viewed by officers. It's been extremely costly to the police. Gough admitted in later police interviews she had lied, saying she had only left the house once that evening to have a cigarette. However, Gough still claimed she had been raped by two men that day, but said it took place inside her home. She said she had lied before because she did not want to upset her four young children by having a forensic team search the house, so she told police the attack took place in the town centre instead. I failed to find what sentence she was awarded

7/1: Gemma Gregory



2007: [Gemma Gregory](#), 28, accused seven different men of rape or sexual assault over a six-year period, all of them false. One boyfriend after another was subjected to police questioning and DNA testing to clear their names. Her fantasy stories wasted huge amounts of police time, including the recording of (literally) hundreds of calls from her.

Finally the police took action and she was given a one-year jail term – but suspended - for perverting the course of justice. The judge said she must receive mental treatment.

The police appeared to have the most immense reluctance to deal with this false accuser effectively. Even her final allegation, when she rang police to say she had been raped at her home, they merely told her she would be prosecuted if it was another lie. She stuck to her story in a video interview three days later. And despite their warning, the police continued to interview the accused man for the next five months. Gregory regularly contacted officers to ask how the case was progressing. It was clear she wanted him put in prison.

And yet the officers told the accused man that they thought the accusation against him was “a load of rubbish”. But, while the accused man did not know about Gregory’s trail of six former victims, the police did. At the conclusion of her trial the police lamely said 'It was not thought appropriate to take action at an earlier stage.' Really? How much of their own time might have been saved – not to mention emotional wear and tear on innocent men – if they had taken action after the first instance?

7/2: Diane Berriman

2007: [Diane Berriman](#), 31, made life so intolerable for landlord Paul Cook with 30 phone calls in one February evening, that he and his wife unplugged all the telephones in their pub. In the early hours, Mr Cook found her smelling of alcohol and sleeping in the pub's laundry. When he finally got her off the premises the next morning, she went to Yates Wine Lodge and falsely claimed he had raped her in the pub. She had previously got him arrested by lies that he had raped her in 2004 and, the same year, also lied when she claimed a second man, called Trevor Hirst, had raped her. Both men ended up in police cells in 2004 and though each spent some time on bail, neither was ever charged. When police heard the latest allegation they did not believe her, she quickly confessed and was arrested. She was jailed for eight months.

7/3 Aftab Ahmed and Anonymous Girl

2007: [Aftab Ahmed](#), 44, a taxi driver, had his life destroyed by a girl crying rape at the end of a drunken night out and then refusing to withdraw the claim out of embarrassment. Married father-of-two, Mr Ahmed, 44, lost his house, livelihood and good name. The teenager dialled 999 after being dropped off at home, believing the discomfort she was suffering indicated she had been sexually assaulted by the cabbie. The court heard she realised Mr Ahmed had not touched her before police arrived to take her statement, but she was too scared to change her story. Once sober she continued the pretence and took police to the remote moorland spot where she claimed the rape took place and officers carried out a full forensic examination in search of evidence. Mr Ahmed, who was worried about the girl's health and made sure she got home safely, was immediately arrested in front of his family and locked up as a suspected rapist. He was released on bail after spending 15 hours in police cells, but his taxi licence was revoked and he was shunned by members of the Muslim community in Bradford where he lived. It took six weeks and an investigation costing £6,000 before police were satisfied he was innocent. Although the girl, by then 17, was charged with perverting the course of justice, she did not admit her guilt until 14 months after the original incident. The teenager from Shipley, West Yorkshire, was sentenced to a four month detention and training order and told she would be locked up for half that period.

6/1: Anver Sheikh

2006: [Anver Sheikh](#) was convicted in 2002 of sexually assaulting two boys at the care home where he used to work more than 20 years ago. The only evidence against him was the uncorroborated testimony of two former inmates of the care home. But the jury believed the accusers and not Mr Sheikh: he was sentenced to eight years.

The Telegraph article by Alasdair Palmer from which I take this account was titled, "If two people accuse you, then you are guilty. They get compensation, you get jail".

In 2004, Mark Newby, his lawyer, managed to locate the employment documents proving that Mr Sheikh had not in fact been at the care home at the time the alleged abuse was supposed to have taken place. The Court of Appeal quashed Mr Sheikh's original conviction, but ordered a retrial.

The same two complainants, made aware by the police of the problems in their evidence, changed it. At Mr Sheikh's second trial, the only evidence against him was again their uncorroborated

allegations that he had abused them. Staggeringly in view of their proven unreliability, the jury again believed Mr Sheikh's accusers rather than Mr Sheikh. He was given another eight years.

In 2006, when Mr Sheikh had been in prison for 4 years, the Appeal Court finally recognised that his second conviction for sex crimes was unsafe. Fresh evidence proved that one of the complainants against him could not have been telling the truth. Moreover, the prosecution ***had failed to disclose records*** that suggested that possibility. For instance, the complainant had alleged that he had been so distressed by Mr Sheikh's abuse that he had attempted suicide five times. There was no evidence that this was so, and medical records gave no indication of anything untoward. The prosecution, however, had not passed on those records to the defence, so the trial had proceeded without the jury being made aware of what they contained.

Alasdair Palmer wrote, "The system for dealing with accusations of sexual abuse is a disgrace. It has manifest failings that are known to lead to wrong verdicts but which remain uncorrected, and which continue to send innocent men to prison.

Chris Saltrese is a solicitor who has handled many appeals for those accused of sexual crimes. It was not his original area of legal expertise, however. "I started as a commercial lawyer," he explained to me, "an area of law that is considerably more lucrative than this one. I ended up handling cases of alleged sex crimes only because it became obvious to me that there was an injustice of colossal proportions taking place." Mr Saltrese believes that there are "certainly scores, and very possibly hundreds" of men who have been convicted of sexual crimes who are rotting in prison with no prospect of release, but who are not guilty and should never have been sentenced.

These men have all been convicted on the uncorroborated allegations of people they knew 10, 20, sometimes even 40 years ago, and whom they have not seen since. It seems incredible that, in English law, such unsupported allegations should be enough to get a man sent to prison for a decade or more. But that is the present situation. Thanks to the steady erosion of the rules of evidence governing sexual offences, culminating in decisions by the Law Lords in 1991 and 1995, a defendant can face multiple allegations at the same trial. None of those allegations need have any corroboration; each, considered on its own merits, may be insufficient to suggest sexual abuse took place, but the effect of the Law Lords' rulings has been that together, multiple allegations are, in law, enough to prove not just that the abuse happened, but that the defendant was the perpetrator.

How could England's most senior judges come to insist on a rule of evidence so transparently unreliable as that? It is a question to which only they know the answer. Their underlying assumption had to be that allegations of sexual abuse should be accepted as true, even if there is no evidence to support them. The result is that the burden of proof is on the accused to prove he is innocent, not on his accusers to prove his guilt.

People are regularly being convicted of sex crimes because that dangerous principle has been embedded into our law. The situation is made worse because of the way the police collect evidence in "historical abuse cases". Knowing that multiple allegations can produce a conviction, they attempt to trace all former residents at care homes where abuse is believed to have taken place, and to then ask if they have any recollections of abuse.

Police interviewers do not always take "No" for an answer. They justify multiple visits and interviews of the same individual on the grounds that they need to "build a relationship of trust with the witness", and that the "trauma of the event will lead many to deny it at first, and only later to be able to admit what happened". Such interviews are not video recorded or even taped by the police

as a matter of course. As a consequence, it is impossible to identify whether or not they have "coached" witnesses.

Police officers can also point out to the people they question that there are financial advantages to making accusations which lead to men being convicted, as victims of sexual abuse are entitled to compensation. Care homes are liable for misconduct by their staff and their insurers will not defend claims for compensation when the alleged perpetrator has been found guilty in the criminal courts. The average compensation pay out is in the region of £20,000, but can go as high as £100,000.

The combination of financial incentives for making allegations, and rules for evidence which do not require those allegations to be corroborated by anything except other, similar allegations, is a recipe for injustice.

In a sense, people such as Mr Sheikh, Mr Anderson and Mrs Hewitt are the lucky ones, for they have been able to demonstrate their innocence. "There are scores of men in prison today who do not have grounds for appeal," explains Mr Saltrese. "They were convicted on their accusers' word alone. The records that might prove their innocence have been lost or destroyed. There is literally nothing they can do to prove that they did not do what they have been accused of doing except reiterate that they did not do it. And that, of course, is not enough."

More innocent people will be convicted unless the law is changed so that uncorroborated allegations are not enough for a guilty verdict. Trials under the present rules are clearly not fair. The Government knows it, and has known it for years. But there are no plans to change any of the procedures to increase the likelihood that those accused of sexual crimes will be acquitted. On the contrary: the Government insists the conviction rate is too low, and wishes to change the rules again to make convictions more likely.

6/2: Darryl Gee and Anonymous Woman (and John Hudson)

2006: There was good news and bad news for [Darryl Gee](#) in 2006. The good news was he had been exonerated of the rape for which he was jailed in 2000. The bad news is he was dead. He'd died in prison four years before, after serving two years as an innocent man. He died shortly after [his second appeal had failed](#).

Mr Gee had been a music teacher (yes, another one). A woman had accused him of raping her as a 10 year old girl in a school classroom and the school staff room ten years earlier. There was no corroborating evidence or adverse witness testimony, despite the helpline set up by the local council to flush out further evidence against Mr Gee. Gee could not deny that he and the pupil had been alone (she was the only member of her class who was learning French horn). But unlocked rooms where anyone could catch an attacker in flagrante delicto were hardly the typical location for a violent attack.

More damningly, that the complainant had made virtually identical allegations against another man, John Hudson, who was jailed for 12 years, appears not to have perturbed anyone. (Mr Hudson's conviction was also overturned). The additional evidence which eventually earned Mr Gee's exoneration, albeit post-mortem, came about due to a doctor friend. This doctor knew that Mr Gee had a serious spinal curvature problem (having two more ribs on one side of his body than the other). As a consequence Mr Gee was slow and awkward in his movements. It was difficult to see how he could have been physically capable of doing what was alleged. He should never have been

tried let alone convicted. His 88 year old mother was more concerned about how her son could have been convicted with no corroborating evidence. Me too, yet these case histories show time after time that men are regularly sent to prison for very long stretches based on nothing but the allegation. Mrs Gee senior said "I still don't understand why that girl said what she did".

There are some interesting data in the newspaper report. National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers at its recent annual conference. These showed that allegations of physical and sexual assault and abuse against teachers rose from 41 in 1991 to 164 last year, while conviction rates have fallen from 12 per cent (five teachers) in 1991 to 3.6 per cent (seven teachers) in 2004, with no conviction last year. Of the 2,210 accusations in the past 15 years, fewer than four per cent have led to a conviction. I do not know the gender split of the accused.

6/3: Katie Davis and Frank Chisholm.



18-year-old Katie Davis was convicted of making a false claim of rape and was sentenced to six months in a young offenders' institute. After the claim she had trigger a manhunt for the balaclava-clad man she said had raped her in an alleyway. Her claim that a stranger attacked her in an alleyway led to Frank Chisholm, 24, spending 10 weeks in jail. She had actually had consensual, unprotected sex with the man but later feared she might get pregnant.

6/4: Maria Del Carmen Marchese and Dr Jan Falkowski



2006: [Dr Falkowski](#), 44, is a consultant psychiatrist. He won the Powerboat P1 Championship in Sicily in 2003 and set a new world speed record in Windermere in October of that year. His achievements did not prevent him from being falsely accused of rape by a deranged stalker. Like so many other falsely accused men, after his experience he called for men accused of sex attacks to be granted anonymity. Dr Jan Falkowski was terrorised by Maria Del Carmen Marchese, 45, who threatened to kill him and his fiancée in what detectives described as one of worst cases of harassment they had ever investigated. She waged a prolonged and malicious campaign against the father of two for three years, bombarding him with sinister phone calls, emails and texts, and including false allegations, including rape, and bomb threats. She was ultimately [jailed for 9 years](#).

Dr Falkowski commented, '*(Anonymity) gave Marchese the freedom to make a false allegation and then systematically use this to destroy my reputation by approaching the press, my employers and organisations connected to me to do as much damage as possible. The damage this false accusation has inflicted on my life and those close to me is immeasurable.*'

Southwark Crown Court in London heard Dr Falkowski, a former officer in the territorial army who served in Bosnia, met Marchese after he began treating her boyfriend George Attard in 2002 at St Clements Hospital in Bow, East London. She became besotted with him and set about sabotaging his wedding to 31-year-old accountant. She broke into his home and flooded it with gas and then did the same on his boat. She trawled through his dustbin to discover intimate details about his life. She targeted the doctor's fiancée, making up to ten threats to kill her a day in a series of chilling text messages. The threats were so bad that the fiancée contemplated suicide. The wedding had to be cancelled after Marchese threatened to poison food at the reception and the couple finally broke up under the strain.

It was after Marchese was arrested for stalking she made a false allegation of rape. (Do women often stalk their rapist?). After destroying his wedding, Marchese set about framing Dr Falkowski. She pulled a used condom from his rubbish bag, smeared the semen into her knickers, and then accused the consultant of drugging and raping her in his office.

5/1: Paul Blackburn



2005: There is no doubting the crime took place. In 1978 a nine-year-old boy, fishing on waste ground by a canal, was snatched by a knife-wielding teenager and led to a disused sewage works. There, he was sexually assaulted, beaten, stabbed and left for dead under a wooden board weighed down with bricks. He was found 28 hours later by neighbours carrying out a search.

[Paul Blackburn](#) was just 14 at the time. He was picked up by the police, interrogated and ultimately 'confessed' to the crime. After his trial, by which time he was 15, Blackburn was sent to prison. Throughout his time in prison he protested his innocence, despite that fact that he knew this would only extend his stay there. Prison officers would tell him he would die in jail, and he believed it.

Mr Blackburn emerged from prison 25 years later, in 2003, a 40 year old virgin. He had never experienced life as a free adult. He had served 25 years for a crime it was abundantly clear he did not commit.

He was offered almost no support on how to re-enter a complex, baffling world he had last experienced as a teenager. He said, "It was scary as shit for me. And there was nobody there to help me. My probation officer was decent in her way but she was embarrassed to speak to me about some things. I can be in whatever nasty area of London at 4am surrounded by drug addicts, crackheads and robbers, it holds no fear for me. I've just been living with them all for 25 years." But it's things like supermarkets he found terrifying. "It was a big Asda, I turned round and walked out again. It's all just too much for me. Too much information, too much choice, too much going on."

In 2004 Blackburn's case was reviewed by the Criminal Cases Review Commission and was referred to the court of appeal. This appeal ruled Blackburn's conviction to be unsafe and was therefore overturned in 2005, some 27 years after he was initially convicted.

Police had been under pressure to find the culprit. Paul Blackburn was known to the local police. He was a screwed-up kid from a violent, neglectful background with an alcoholic father who was frequently away at sea. He had been attending a reform school nearby after convictions for burglary and arson. On the weekend in question, Blackburn was on home leave, staying only a few hundred metres from where the attack took place.

But aside from a few circumstantial details – for example two haircuts in quick succession which, prosecutors argued, were intended to disguise a resemblance to newspaper descriptions of the assailant – the entire case against Blackburn rested on a confession he hand-wrote after interrogation by two Cheshire detectives. He later retracted the 'confession'.

Despite it being known that there was only one assailant, it later emerged that the police had also extracted confessions both from Blackburn's older brother and from two other initial suspects. All these 'confessions' were, like Paul Blackburn's, swiftly retracted.

At his trial the officers insisted the confession was freely offered and in Blackburn's own words. But in 2005 the appeal judges concluded, bluntly, that the police had not told the truth. The two officers in question were effectively labelled as perjurers.

How could a poorly educated 15-year-old, who was barely literate at the time, have drafted a document littered with technical terms, all of them spelled correctly? Apparently this was too subtle an issue for anyone to have noticed previously.

Glyn Maddocks, the solicitor who guided Blackburn's appeal, says he had never previously seen a more "absolutely black and white case", and is aghast no retrospective action was taken against the Cheshire detectives.

Blackburn described his experience in prison thus: "The day I walked into prison I became something different. You're not even a normal prisoner. I'm in prison for the attempted murder and sexual assault of a young child. I'm a nonce. You're a beast and an animal, and you're treated as such." He declined the protection commonly given to sexual offenders, and so endured regular beatings.

["The prison system is out to kill you.](#) There is no one guarding you, or watching out for you, you are left alone amongst the worst people in society." Prison is never quiet. It is full of tension, anger and stress, a life constantly on edge. He was fearful and frightened every single waking moment of every single day. He would have to live with constant threat, 24 hours a day. Decade after decade the innocent man would cry in the dark, but continued to fight the system. Fighting the system became his only reason for existence. (When he was finally released he said, "my biggest worry when I got out of prison was that there would be nobody left to fight, and I'd just commit suicide - it was the fight which had kept me going."). When Blackburn went to prison and needed his family most, they abandoned him. If he was walking down the street he wouldn't recognise them. Not only did the system destroy his life they stole his right to a normal family life.

Speaking in 2009, some four years after his formal exoneration, Mr Blackburn said he still awaits any significant sum in compensation. Neither the Home Office, which as late as 1996 refused him leave to appeal, nor Cheshire police have expressed regret. He said he has had one letter from the Cheshire police which basically says: "Tough shit, fuck off. We're admitting nothing and we never will".

5/2: Margaret Hewitt and George Anderson- exonerated



2005: [Former Barnardo's care workers](#), Margaret Hewitt, 70, and George Anderson, 47, were jailed in 2004 for alleged sexual offences against children in a care home more than 24 years previously. Mrs Hewitt had been sentenced to 11 years in prison after being found guilty of 53 counts of child abuse, gross indecency and assault committed against eight children between 1977 and 1981. Mr Anderson was originally sentenced to 15 years after being found guilty of two counts of rape and 15 other convictions allegedly committed against five children between 1979 and 1981.

The public will probably imagine that convictions for so many offences against so many complainants cannot all be untrue. The public will assume that multiple complainants virtually proves guilt. But that is because the public are generally unaware of the influence of victim compensation, the practice of police making potential complainants aware of victim compensation, and practice of police in trawling for additional complainants once one allegation has been made. And, of course, the guarantee of complainant anonymity. Add to this the Law Lords rulings in 1991 and 1995 that a defendant can face multiple allegations at the same trial and this combination of circumstances provides too tempting an opportunity for false accusers, perhaps with scores to settle or just with financial gain in mind.

Unfortunately the Law Lords' wisdom appears not to extend to appreciating how wide open to abuse is this combination of circumstances. In the context of more than one complainant, [Alasdair Palmer](#) wrote, *"None of those allegations need have any corroboration; each, considered on its own merits, may be insufficient to suggest sexual abuse took place, but the effect of the Law Lords' rulings has been that together, multiple allegations are, in law, enough to prove not just that the abuse happened, but that the defendant was the perpetrator."*

After serving 10 months in prison, Hewitt's and Anderson's convictions were quashed after one witness admitted he had lied and claimed the other witnesses had also lied. [Alasdair Palmer](#) writing in the Telegraph puts it more strongly, thus, *"Their convictions were quashed after one complainant admitted that his allegation was entirely invented. He said he had lied in court, and insisted that the other complainants had lied, adding that he knew they lied because he had spoken to them before the trial took place. Furthermore, it was established at the appeal hearing that one of the police officers who had gathered the original evidence had taken the complainants to see a compensation lawyer before Mr Anderson and Mrs Hewitt had even been arrested."*

The Appeal Court judge said this retraction of evidence had contaminated the evidence of other witnesses. The result was that the court was left with a "significant sense of unease" about the safety of the jury's verdicts.

Well, since there was no other basis for conviction than the complainants' testimony, and since one complainant admitted having lied and claims the others also lied, I would say that "unease" with the conviction is rather a masterpiece of judicial understatement.

The Appeal judge added, however, that this was "not the end of the affair. We shall give serious consideration to ordering a retrial on a significant number of counts after we have delivered our written judgement". In the event, [they did not](#).

5/3: Merete Underwood

2005: [Merete Underwood](#), 32, a married woman who claimed she had been raped to cover up the fact she had had a one-night stand was jailed for a year. She had been out with her husband and son in February last year when she disappeared. She went to the bathroom. A few minutes later her husband asked bar staff to check the toilets. There was no sign of her there and no sign of her outside. Although worried, Mr Underwood took his son home. He woke at 5am the next day to find his wife was still missing and reported her disappearance to the police. Actually a few drinks in one pub were followed by several more in another in the company of man, an interior designer. Realising that she had been reported missing and needed a cover story, Underwood accused the 34-year-old interior designer of rape to prevent her husband discovering the truth. The man spent 24 hours in a cell and endured the prospect of prosecution for three months before the police reversed their view of what had really happened. Even after his accuser was charged with perverting the course of justice, Underwood continued to lie for a further year. It was only as the jury was about to be sworn in to try her that she confessed. Sentenced to a year inside she only served 3 months before being [released on licence, tagged](#). She was still protesting her innocence but did not remain free long. [She was back inside](#) for breaking the terms of her parole.

00/1: Keith Beattie (deceased)

00/1: 2000: [Keith Beattie](#), 22, was accused of raping a 13 year old girl. He had insisted on his innocence, though this never came to trial. He hung himself in a derelict house near his home just 10 days after being accused. He left a note which said: "I'm accused of something I didn't do". His heartbroken father backed moves to protect innocent men from false allegations of rape by extending anonymity to the accused. [HEqual](#) claims that, "the day after Beattie's death his accuser allegedly boasted that she had made the rape claims up". This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused suicide.

97/1: Stephen McLaughlin (deceased) and Eilidh Connell

1997: Stephen McLaughlin, 22, was accused of rape by his former girlfriend, Eilidh Connell, daughter of a former British skating champion. After months of anguish, it took a jury only 15 minutes to decide by majority verdict that Eilidh Connell was guilty of false allegation. She was given four months' community service. Even though a court had completely exonerated him, and convicted his accuser, McLaughlin never recovered from the trauma. He withdrew from society and seldom left home. Ultimately, Mr McLaughlin was found dead in his fume filled car in a remote part of the Galloway Forest by passing walkers. This is one of the false allegation cases identified by [HEqual](#) as resulting in the accused suicide.