

COURTS: Rape lie woman is evil, says cop

Published: 13:42

Friday 08 February 2002

A WOMAN who led city police on a wild goose chase by making false rape claims was today branded "evil" by city police.

A WOMAN who led city police on a wild goose chase by making false rape claims was today branded "evil" by city police. A WOMAN who led city police on a wild goose chase by making false rape claims was today branded "evil" by city police.

Detective Chief Inspector Dick Harrison said Samantha Gaches 24 hoax calls to police had diverted precious resources away from the hunt for a real rapist.

DCI Harrison and his team were investigating the brutal rape of a

16-year-old girl in Paston, Peterborough, when Gaches began to spin her sick web of lies in April last year.

Police were tricked into believing that her fictional friend "Karen" had been attacked by the same man and had seen his face - the vital breakthrough officers were looking for.

As reported in later editions of the The Evening Telegraph yesterday, Gaches claims cost tax payers 25,000 and wasted 1,800 hours of police time.

The 34-year-old, of Livermore Green, Werrington, Peterborough, was told to obey a three-month curfew order and ordered to wear an electronic tag after being sentenced at Peterborough Magistrates Court yesterday.

She escaped a stiffer sentence after her lawyers said she was "emotionally distressed" and "unstable", and also the mother of a young child.

Today DCI Harrison said: "What she has done has the potential to undermine the way in which we investigate crimes of this nature. It is both inconsiderate and evil.

"It diverted the resources that were being put into the Paston rape for about a fortnight. It made a significant difference because it swallowed 1,800 hours of police time that would have been on the inquiry. You cant retrieve those hours."

DCI Harrison said that Gaches case could have been a major breakthrough in the hunt for the Paston rapist, who left a teenage girl for dead in December 2000.

He said: "If this had been a genuine attack, there would be a victim who may have had a good look at the attacker. It could have given us a lot of new lines of inquiry. That is why the conscious decision was made to divert the resources."

But the court heard that officers began to have "grave concerns" when inconsistencies began appearing in her story.

THE man who led the investigation into Samantha Gaches hoax rape claim today said it was unlikely the costs of the inquiry would ever be retrieved.

DCI Harrison said: "There is little prospect of retrieving the money. Im not sure whether there is a compensation process, but if there is it wouldnt amount to 25,000.

"Even if we were compensated, it could not give us back the hours that have been lost.

"False claims are very hard to stop, because if someone makes an allegation it must be investigated.

"This case was unusual because the caller claimed someone else had been raped - not herself."

<https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/environment/courts-rape-lie-woman-is-evil-says-cop-1-101275>