A banker has told how he spent more than a year on bail after a woman he met online made a false rape claim against him.

Paul Faulkner, from Hertfordshire, is the latest man to complain about the way sex cases are handled by the police following a string of collapsed prosecutions.

He says he was wrongly accused of a number of offences by a woman he met on Match.com, prompting his house to be raided by four police officers.
The are some of the menacing texts send to Paul Faulkner by a woman who falsely accused him of rape and other offences. He has spoken out about how long it took to investigate.

He told The Sun Online that he then spent 70 weeks on bail, losing his job and considering suicide, before he was finally told he faced no further action in December last year.

He told the website: 'I had given the police all the evidence, I was not guilty and yet I was treated like a violent criminal who had already been convicted. No one was listening.'

The 46-year-old, who once earned £100,000-a-year, said he was sent a series of texts by the woman, demanding money and vowing: 'I will get my revenge.'

He says the issue of long delays in investigations is serious not just for wrongly accused men like himself, but also for potential victims who may have to wait months to get justice.
Hertfordshire Police said a complaint had been made about the case and was being investigated.

Mr Faulkner spoke out as Scotland Yard continued its review of 600 cases of rape and sexual assault which are awaiting trial, with thousands more under review nationally, amid claims evidence is not being properly dealt with.

Hertfordshire Police, whose Welwyn Garden City headquarters is pictured, says it is reviewing how Mr Faulkner's case was handled

Last week, the Metropolitan Police and prosecutors were forced to apologise for a litany of blunders which led to student Liam Allan being wrongly accused of rape.

Mr Allan, a criminology student at Greenwich University in London, spent two years on bail accused of rape and sexual assault - under messages from the woman emerged at the start of his trial.

Mr Allan's case collapsed last December, sparking a national debate about the failures by the authorities to disclose relevant information to those accused in sex cases.

The messages sent by the woman in that case included one to a friend saying: 'It wasn't against my will or anything.'
Others read: 'Sometimes sex is the number 1 priority, I'm really not joking to be honest,' and, 'You know it's always nice to be sexually assaulted without breaking the law.'

**Failure to disclose evidence has led to a series of collapsed cases**

The issue of disclosure of evidence has been at the centre of a series of sex offence trials which have collapsed in recent months.

More than 900 criminal cases were dropped last year due to a failure by police or prosecutors to disclose evidence.

The series of failures led former Lord Chief Justice, Igor Judge, to warn that juries may start to think they have not been shown all the evidence, and victims to not come forward.
In December, Isaac Itiary was released from prison after it emerged his alleged victim posed as a 19-year-old woman and lied about her age.

Police officers had texts which showed the girl was lying about her age but only released them after he had spent four months in custody awaiting his trial.

In February, the case against Samson Makele, 28, was halted after his defence team unearthed vital photographs from his mobile phone which had not been made available.

Mr Makele was accused of raping a woman after they met at Notting Hill Carnival in 2016 but he always claimed the sex was consensual.

His case, which was due to begin in March, was thrown out after more than a dozen photographs were found which showed the pair naked and cuddling in bed.
Oxford student Oliver Mears, 19, spent two years on bail accused of raping and indecently assaulting a woman in July 2015.

But the CPS decided to offer no evidence against him in February on the basis of fresh evidence, including a diary that supported his case, which was passed to the CPS just a week earlier.