Police say claims two girls aged 15 and 17 were raped in Manchester city centre were false

Officers however are still investigating and want to hear from witnesses who saw a man with the youngsters near Sackville Gardens

BY PAUL BRITTON
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Police forensic tent on Brazil Street, Manchester, where Greater Manchester Police are investigating reports that two girls were raped (Image: Joel Goodman)

Reports that two teenage girls were raped in Manchester city centre have been dismissed by police.
Detectives from a specialist Greater Manchester Police unit launched urgent inquiries into reports that the girls, aged 15 and 17, were raped on a car park. They have now determined that no offences of rape took place. Detectives however say they are still investigating reports that the girls were victims of sex offences.

They want to trace a man seen with them in the Brazil Street area of the city centre and a fresh appeal for witnesses has now been issued. Both teenagers are still receiving specialist police support.

Det Insp Damian Simpson, from GMP’s serious sexual offences unit, said: “We investigated this report thoroughly and are satisfied that no rape took place but we are still investigating a sexual offence against a child. We take all reports of rape seriously and we have and will continue to offer specialist support to the girls. I am keen to speak to anyone who may have seen a man and two girls in the area.”

The initial report was received by police at around 4pm on Saturday, September 19. It was said to have happened in broad daylight close to Sackville Gardens and Manchester’s Gay Village. The area was cordoned off for forensic examinations.

Detectives believe an incident happened shortly before the report came in.

A spokesman added: “Police are now appealing for anybody who may have witnessed a man and two girls in the area between 3pm and 4pm to come forward.”
Anybody with information can call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-say-claims-two-girls-10168880