Woman lied over ‘rape’

POLICE are considering prosecuting a 24-year-old woman who admitted she lied about being raped at knifepoint.

The woman’s claims have terrorised people in South Tyneside since Monday, when she said two men had attacked her at Tyne Dock Metro station at 6.50am.

But after a thorough investigation, detectives found a number of irregularities before she finally confessed that she’d made it all up.

Now a file about the matter is in the hands of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which will decide whether or not to take her to court.

Detective Inspector Ian Dawes, from South Shields CID, said: “The complainant has now told police that the attack did not happen.

“Stranger rapes are remarkably rare and I have known very, very few.

“It has made people in the area very frightened about the possibility of a pair of rapists in South Tyneside - but there was not an attack in the first place.”

The false claims led to massive media attention and hundreds of hours of wasted police time.

Det Insp Dawes said: “We would like to reassure the public that stranger rapes are extremely rare. However, any report of rape is taken very seriously by Northumbria Police, and will be fully and sensitively investigated.”
Wasted time

POLICE are considering prosecuting a young South Shields woman who prompted a full-scale investigation when she claimed she had been raped.

The woman said she had been held at knifepoint and attacked by two men near Tyne Dock Metro station early on Monday morning.

Quite rightly, the police treated the claims extremely seriously and a massive manhunt was launched for the two suspects.

The Gazette, too, treated the claims for what they seemed - a serious sexual assault. The claims made, and the publicity they attracted, made women in the Tyne Dock area anxious over going out. They feared a rapist was on the loose.

Now it is clear there was no rape.

The hours spent searching for the two supposed attackers were wasted. How the police must wish they could have those valuable hours back to use on genuine cases.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time such false claims have been made in South Tyneside. It's happened too often before.

We wonder how far down the line these time-wasters want to go before admitting their lies. For there are few more serious crimes of which a man can stand accused.

Furthermore, such liars heighten the perception of serious crime being regularly committed in our borough.

It is time these rape hoaxers were punished properly for making such serious allegations which have no basis in fact.