Reported pack rape of 16-year-old was a false complaint

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Police are no longer investigating the reported pack rape of a 16-year-old woman in central Wellington early last Sunday.

Detective Ian McMeeking, of Wellington CIB, said police were satisfied the attack did not occur.

Police were also satisfied the young woman did not make the complaint in a vindictive or obstructive manner, "but rather as a result of a traumatic personal event which had occurred immediately prior," he said in a statement.

The woman had reported being attacked and raped by a group of four or five men in their late teens or early 20s. They were said to have followed her and attacked her in Flagstaff Hill Lane, a small street off Willis St near its intersection with Boulcott St about 1.30am on Sunday.

Mr McMeeking said police thanked members of the public who assisted in the inquiry.

Mr McMeeking told NZPA the woman had been referred to aid agencies and was receiving a wide range of assistance.

He confirmed the investigation had been a "comparatively large inquiry".

It was "reassuring" to know the four or five men said to be involved apparently did not exist and their reported actions had not in fact taken place.

Mr McMeeking declined to reveal any further details about the trauma the woman had experienced just before reporting the attack.