

## Nottingham taxi driver: 'Sex attack lies ruined my life'

By [Nottingham Post](#) | Posted: July 04, 2013



**Accused: Mohammed Asif**

A TAXI driver has told how a sexual assault claim made up by a passenger tore his world apart.

Mohammed Asif was arrested and left crying in a police cell after Astria Berwick told officers he had committed a serious sexual assault and attacked her with a knife in his cab.

A voice recording he made of the journey is the only thing that saved him from going on trial.

The CCTV in Mr Asif's cab wasn't working on the day Berwick said he attacked her, but he was using a sound recording 'app' on his mobile phone as a back-up.

Police listened to the tape and realised there had been no assault during the February 20 cab journey.

Mr Asif, 34, of Carlton Hill, spoke after Berwick was jailed.

He said: “She changed my life. I’m completely different now. I’m scared to go out.

“I keep thinking, ‘I just dropped her off, she was just a normal passenger, why has she done that?’”

Berwick, 27, of Brendon Grove, Bingham, appeared at Nottingham Crown Court last Thursday (June 27) and was jailed for 16 months after she admitted perverting the course of justice.

Judge Michael Stokes QC, The Recorder of Nottingham, said Berwick called police for “some unaccountable reason” and made up the story.

He said: “This was outrageous behaviour by the defendant against a wholly innocent man who had been saved by the recording on his phone.”

Mr Asif said he felt “really lucky” he’d thought to use the phone ‘app’ on the day and believes that without it he’d now be on remand waiting to face a judge and jury.

After the arrest he could not face working again for a month and lost a stone in weight.

Now back at work, he is still trying to forget the night everything came crashing down for him.

The father-of-two said he was shaking after being released by police and still had problems sleeping.

He added: “If I ever met her again, although I don’t want to, I’d just ask ‘why?’ ”



[copperjohn3](#) | July 05 2013, 3:12AM

There are currently plans to introduce cctv to all of the cities licensed hackney carriages, this story demonstrates that they would be as much for the security of the drivers as the passengers.

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[trentcider](#) | July 04 2013, 6:13PM

Very lucky indeed, that he recorded the journey. lets hope he can put it behind him, to be honest that woman should have got more time, why would anyone say these things..... Also if he was to get compo where would it come from, I doubt she has any money, but I wish him well for the future .

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evil \*\*\*\*\* Good to see he had the presence of mind to use his smart phone to record journeys as his CCTV was broken. Good to see his employer had intalled CCTV in the cab to monitor his safety and the saftey of the customers. I bet his employers know the name and address of all their employees too. Maybe the hackney cabs and the council should take note.

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evil woman should of got 7 yrs or the time a rapist would get. ruined this mans life and maybe stopped other women comming forward who have suffered.

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[Paul1977AD](#) | July 04 2013, 4:53PM

Justice done and hopefully this Gentleman recieves a shed load of money as compensation for the ordeal this creature put him through. I hope you can regain faith in humanity Mr Asif. It's amazing to see what evil is amounst us, i hope somehow she never makes it out of that cell as she doesn't deserve a second chance.

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What an evil woman! She has caused this man a lot of stress and could have ruined his life. I'm glad she has been put away for a while.

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[SteveBasford](#) | July 04 2013, 11:57AM

daft \*\*\*\*

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There have been several stories of this nature published in the Post in recent years. The sentence seems very lenient given the serious nature of the false allegations made.

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<http://www.nottinghampost.com/Nottingham-taxi-driver-Sex-attack-lies-ruined/story-19474215-detail/story.html>