

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1)

Statement of: Detective Inspector Julian King

Age if under 18: OVER 18

Occupation: Detective Inspector, Metropolitan Police Service

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: 

Date: 13.8.13

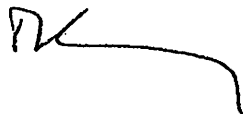
1. My name is Julian King, I am a Detective Inspector in the Metropolitan Police Service based at Fulham Police Station, Heckfield Place, London, SW6 5NL.
2. I am the Detective Inspector with responsibility for all rapes and serious sex crimes in the areas of Hammersmith & Fulham, and Kensington & Chelsea.
3. One of my core responsibilities is to oversee all investigations and decide whether a case should i) be referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) RASSO Unit (Rape and serious sexual offences Unit) which handles all cases involving rape, child sexual abuse, all other serious sexual offences and any matters arising from false allegations of rape or ii) be discontinued without it being referred to the CPS RASSO Unit.
4. On 4 January 2013 at 16:00 the MPS received an allegation of rape reported by Eleanor DE FREITAS via a PCSO on the Hans Town Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team. Ms DE FREITAS said she had been raped by a male acquaintance (Mr Alexander Economu) two weeks before on 23/12/12 - 24/12/12 at his home address, and said that she did not report it at the time because she was uncertain about whether she gave consent or not as she believed she had been drugged.
5. Following the making of this allegation, Ellie de Freitas was interviewed on the 4th January 2013 between 20:25 and 22:20. Ms de Freitas was video interviewed (ABE) and gave a full account of events leading up to and after the alleged rape. A note of what was said by Ellie de Freitas in this interview was taken by PC Alcoran and I produce this as my exhibit JK/1.

Signed: 

Date: 13.8.13

6. Due to this allegation, Alexander Economou was arrested on suspicion of rape on 4 January 2013 at 19:20 and held in police custody overnight at Nottingham Police Station. He was interviewed the following day and then released on bail at 20:01. Whilst he was in custody his flat was searched by officers from the Metropolitan Police Service.
7. On the 21st of February 2013, the rationale for no further action was added to the report for this investigation. In all investigations I have to consider all of the facts that are presented to me and whether the case is suitable to be forwarded to the Crown Prosecution Service for consideration for a prosecution. In this investigation I made the decision that this case shouldn't proceed to the CPS as there were elements of the case that provided me with cause for concern.
8. A note of those reasons considered was made at the time. I exhibit this note as as **JK/2**. Exhibit **JK/2** is a document providing my rationale for no further action in this investigation. This rationale was prepared by me.

Signed:



Date: 13.8.13

[10]

Exhibit Label

Produced By: Julian King

Exhibit Ref: JK/02

Description: Note of the reasons why the allegation made by Eleanor de Freitas did not proceed to the CPS

I have considered and reviewed the facts in this case and based on these facts i have decided that this investigation should not proceed to RASSO for a consideration to prosecute. There are elements within this case that undermine the credibility of the victim and i do not believe that there would be a realistic chance of a prosecution in this case.

-There is no corroboration of the victims account. She claims to have been drugged by the suspect however due to the time lapse in reporting we cannot prove this assertion that the suspect drugged her. The scene examination of the suspects accommodation does not support the victims evidence. I take into account the fact that the suspect could well have tidied/cleaned the scene since this incident however the fact there is no forensics corroboration undermines any prosecution case. Equally the victim reports this matter after receiving communication from the suspect stating that he is on route to a police station to report harassment committed by the victim. The issue of credibility of this allegation is an issue as prior to reporting the victim apologizes for her actions by way of email to the suspect. In that she states that she apologizes for any trouble she may have caused. The suspect communicates back and informs her that she has lied and that he will potentially seek both civil and criminal proceedings against her.

-Both victim and suspect went to Ann Summers the following day and a purchase of goods totalling £337.98 is made. CCTV footage has been gathered by the defence that indicates that both parties appear to be fine and there is no reason to doubt that the victim would be under any duress. Equally these actions post offence would undermine any criminal prosecution. There is nothing to support that the victim was drugged and forced to go on a shopping trip with the suspect. In fact the opposite could be gleaned by any jury in that both parties were willing to continue with their sex exploits and the trip to Ann Summers was to exploit their respective fantasies.

-The suspect is a man of good character and has provided a pre-prepared statement. The theme of his thoughts from email communication and the statement is that he completely denies this accusation. In fact he goes beyond this by employing his solicitor to seek independent evidence by way of a telephone download from his friends phone. The friend is a mutual friend of both victim and suspect. Of note is a message to the mutual friend from the victim stating that the suspect 'fucked and chucked'. There is no reference made to being sexually assaulted.

- Her actions post event cause me concern in that she apologizes to the suspect for the trouble caused and she reports this matter after the suspect emails her and sends a text to her father outlining his intentions on the matter.

Overall i make this decision in the interests of the public and I believe it is not in the public interests to continue to allocate resource to this enquiry whether that is police or the CPS.