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Policeman sues over woman's false sex abuse claims

By Auslan Cramb

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A WOMAN who wrongly accused three police officers of indecent assault is facing a jail sentence after she admitted making up the allegations.

Frances Lawler, 37, jeopardised the careers of officers from two different forces by claiming they had fondled her.

Dc Kenneth Watson, 41, of Northern Constabulary, and Pcs David Kirkham, 28, and Kevin Brownlie, 32, of Central Scotland Police, were suspended after she made the claims and had to wait for internal investigations before they were cleared.

When the criminal case is over, Lawler will become the first person in Britain to be sued by a police officer over false allegations of sexual indecency. Dc Watson, who is married with two children, will claim in the civil action that his reputation and family life was damaged.

Stirling sheriff court heard that Lawler went to a police station in May 1999 and claimed she had been "groped" by Dc Watson while he was visiting her home in Culloden, near Inverness, to investigate a theft. She said he had touched her breasts.

Two months later, after moving to Stirlingshire, she telephoned Central Scotland Police to say two officers had assaulted her at Bannockburn police station.

She pleaded guilty to two charges of causing public mischief by wasting police time and rendering three officers liable to unjustified suspicion. Sentence was deferred until next month.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1362431/Policeman-sues-over-womans-false-sex-abuse-claims.html>