

Woman guilty of using fake penis and tricking friend into having sex with her

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Gayle Newland created a 'disturbingly complex' online persona to achieve a 'bizarre sexual satisfaction'

A woman has been convicted of impersonating a man over two years in an 'astonishing deception' to trick her female friend into sex.

Gayle Newland, 27, of Willaston, Cheshire, created a 'disturbingly complex' online persona to achieve her own 'bizarre sexual satisfaction'.

A retrial jury at Manchester Crown Court found her guilty of committing sexual assault by using a prosthetic penis without her victim's consent.

Newland was jailed for eight years in November 2015 after she was convicted of the same offences by another jury at Chester Crown Court. But the conviction was quashed in the Court of Appeal last December and a retrial was ordered after it was ruled that the trial judge's summing up of the case was not fair and balanced.

The complainant said she was persuaded by the defendant to wear a blindfold at all times when they met and only found out she was having sex with Newland when she finally took off her mask.



Gayle Newland carried out an 'astonishing deception' against her victim (Picture: PA)

Newland claimed her accuser always knew she was pretending to be Kye Fortune – a Facebook profile she created at the age of 15 using an American man's photographs and videos – as they engaged in role play while struggling with their sexuality.

She said no blindfold was used as they had sex on about 10 occasions at the complainant's flat in Chester in 2013. The defendant also told the court she did not strap bandages to her chest or wear a swimsuit and a woollen hat to conceal her appearance.

The defendant spent 'hundreds' of hours talking on the telephone to her friend as Kye and more than 100 hours in each other's company.

These encounters, according to the complainant, included her wearing a blindfold at all times together – including watching television, going on a car journey also wearing sunglasses and even sunbathing.

Prosecutor Simon Medland QC told the jury: 'This manipulative, deceitful and very crafty young woman went to such astonishing lengths to control the complainant's life and make her do the things the defendant wanted her to do.'

The verdicts can be reported after reporting restrictions imposed at the start of the retrial were lifted.



Gayle Newland was previously jailed for eight years over the attack (Picture: Police handout)

Newland was found guilty of three counts of sexual assault and cleared of a fourth count.

The jury of nine women and three men reached majority guilty verdicts of 11-1 after deliberating for 17 hours and 25 minutes.

The defendant cried in the dock, shook her head and at one point said: 'I can't go back to jail.'

One of the female jurors was visibly upset and struggling to hold back tears as Newland became distressed.

The Recorder of Manchester, Judge David Stockdale QC, granted Newland bail ahead of sentencing on July 20. But he told her the 'overwhelming likelihood' was that she would receive 'a significant immediate custodial sentence'.

The horrific toll on her victim

The sexual history of the complainant who accused Gayle Newland of duping her into sex by pretending to be a man was focused on in the retrial.

Newland's accuser made a victim personal statement in January 2015 in which she outlined how she suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression.

She stated: 'I feel like a shell of a person that I potentially could be. Relationships with partners and colleagues are non-existent.

'I am no longer the bubbly, fun-loving character I used to be.'

She added that she also feared making eye contact with strangers.

But she later admitted that she slept with a man several weeks after she made her initial police complaint in the summer of 2013.

Giving evidence in cross-examination by Newland's barrister, she told Manchester Crown Court: 'Part of it is because I felt stupid that I had slept with this fake penis. Part of you wants to be reckless and sleep with men. Part of it is just being reckless.

'I also probably slept with 19 people during that time. I slept with a lot of guys.

'I got drunk. I did a lot of things when the bottom of your life caved in.'

The juries in both of Newland's trials were shown a video the complainant posted on social media after she made the allegations. The clip showed her doing sit-ups while being held in the air by a male stranger.

She said: 'There was a challenge, I was drunk off my face. I was trying to have a good time after the crappy last two years.

'I am not going to apologise for having a good time and making the best of a bad situation.'