Three convicted of sexually abusing school girl in Oxford

From the <u>BBC</u>. This was a long case and the jury were out a long time, with the Christmas and New Year holidays inbetween.

A GANG of child abusers on trial for historical sex offences which took place across Oxford have been convicted.

During the major trial into child sexual exploitation, <u>defence</u> <u>barristers</u> representing the accused men.

Paul Hinds, for Nazir, asked the woman if she was 'prepared to lie' in order to avoid prison, which she denied. He also asked her if there was a 'link between the amount of trouble [she] was in' and what she told officers. He put to her: "I suggest you are making allegations in order to improve your position."

She replied that she had not.

After the guilty verdicts to the majority of the counts were returned yesterday presiding Judge Peter Ross thanked the jury for their dedication to the case. Once he had discharged them from the case he went on to exempt all 12 jurors from carrying out any further jury service for the rest of their lives.

Judge Peter Ross asked for further information about the guilty men and said they would be sentenced on a date to be set in February. A hearing will be held at the same court today to decide whether a re-trial will be sought on the four outstanding counts.