

## **'Victim of abuse' was a chronic liar**

A former firefighter jailed for allegedly abusing a 14-year-old boy in the 1970s had had his conviction overturned.

*David Bryant, now 66, of Chistchurch, Dorset, was released after judges at the Court of Appeal in London **described his accuser as a chronic liar.***

Mr Bryant, who was 26 at the time of the alleged offence, was accused of attacking Danny Day, then aged 14, in Chistchurch fire station after inviting him there to play darts in 1977.

After being found guilty of buggery by a majority verdict, he was jailed for six years, later increased to eight and a half years.

At a previous hearing the judge said that Mr Day was "motivated to come forward in the aftermath of the Jimmy Savile affair".

*Mr Justice Singh, announcing the decision to quash the conviction, said that new evidence showed "from 2000 to 2010 the complainant in this case had to seek medical attention from his GP in relation to what can only be described as his being a chronic liar".*

*Mr Bryant, who was described in court as a man of impeccable character, said outside court: "There are serious questions about how allegations of historical sexual abuse are investigated and dealt with.*

**"What happened to me must never be allowed to happen again," he added.**

**David Bryant did not abuse a schoolboy in 1977**