



NPIA

National Policing
Improvement Agency

MISSING PERSONS
BUREAU

thebureau

April 2009

The Missing Persons Bureau celebrates its first year of successful operation.

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Who's bringing this newsletter to you?

The Missing Persons Bureau is part of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). It works with the police and related organisations to improve the services provided to missing person's investigations and to increase the effectiveness of the police response. The Bureau acts as the centre for the exchange of information connected with the search for missing persons nationally and internationally.



From the editor

Welcome to the third issue of our quarterly newsletter. This is an anniversary edition produced to coincide with the first anniversary of the launch of the Missing Persons Bureau within NPIA in April 2008.

We have had a very challenging and rewarding first year building a strong base of trained staff and delivering a quality service to build upon in future.

We have worked to develop relationships with our stakeholders, partners and related Non Government Organisations including the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, featured within this issue.

We are striving to provide an improved service to police forces and help improve the investigation of missing person cases as well as enhancing the service provision for those individuals who are missing, such as those running away from abuse or neglect. The development of the code of practice and new indicator NI71 should help drive this work forward.

Thank you for supporting our development in this first year of our operation. We look forward to working with you during the coming year.



If you have any questions about any of the articles in this issue, or suggestions for future content, please email missingpersons bureau@npia.pnn.police.uk

I especially welcome any information or intelligence you may be able to provide relating to the missing/unidentified people featured in this issue.



Miranda Rouse, Editor
thebureau

BOOK NOW...



Missing Persons Events Transforming the Missing Landscape

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th April 2009

NPIA, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry

www.npia.police.uk/en/8432.htm

Joint National Missing Persons Conference

Topics covered will include:

- Child Abduction Alert update
- A real-life missing case study
- Honour-based violence
- A Free Text Service for Runaways
- 'Living in Limbo' report
- UKHTC
- CEOP
- NPIA Specialist Services and more...

How much will it cost?

The conference represents excellent value at just £195.00 per person to attend. That includes all refreshments, lunch on both days, formal dinner and accommodation on Wednesday evening, but excludes your own travelling costs.

Who will benefit by attending?

The conference is a must for practitioners and policymakers dealing with the issue of missing people and promises to be a 'must-attend' event of the year. It will be of particular interest to those at Inspector level and above within police forces, executives within children's services and other care departments, as well as those working for NGOs who operate in this area.

Why should I attend?

Apart from the value of the programme content and its relevance to you, it's also an ideal networking opportunity.

Book now to avoid disappointment!
Call Julia on **02476 516240** or email events@npia.pnn.police.uk to find out more and obtain a booking form.



Guest Speaker:
Sir Bob Geldof



25 May
International Missing
Children's Day

International Missing Children's Day

25th May is International Missing Children's Day (IMCD). The main purpose of the International Missing Children's Day is to encourage everyone to remember all the children missing in the UK, Europe and around the world and to send a message of hope and solidarity at international level to parents who do not know where their children are or what has become of them.

We are co-ordinating with the Global Missing Children's Network to recognise IMCD and will be holding an event on the South Bank in London to help to raise awareness of the day.

Please encourage everyone you know to wear a 'forget-me-not' badge or wrist band on the day and support a missing person's charity in the UK; the contribution is voluntary.

Contact us on **01256 602979** now to find out how you can obtain 'forget-me-not badges' for you and your team.

Features - The first year

The Bureau was launched a year ago on the 1st April 2008, within the then only one year old National Policing Improvement Agency. The previous unit, the Police National Missing Persons Bureau (PNMPB) was located within the Metropolitan Police Service. The placing of the Bureau within a central agency occurred following recommendations by Sir Perry Nove in his review of the PNMPB.

Achievements to date

Over the last year we have recruited and trained staff, developed effective procedures and set up an efficient operational office at the NPPIA's Bramshill site.

Accomplishments to date include offering a higher level of service than initially agreed to forces, including:

- Increased quality of cross matching reports (positive feedback from forces)
- Improved quality and comprehensiveness of advice to forces
- The ability to collate and review cases effectively
- Engagement with Crime Operational Support services
- The development of the new Code of Practice for Missing Persons
- The production of interim guidance on Missing Persons cases
- Unidentified body review
- Hermes development
- Arranging the first joint national conference, in co-ordination with the charity, Missing People
- Managing and co-ordinating the Missing Kids Website
- Successful completion of a joint Child Rescue Alert exercise

Future plans

Our plans for the future include work in a variety of areas, including:

- The development of a new international and national child rescue alert system
- The production of new, full guidance on the management, recording and investigation of Missing Persons
- Developing analytical capabilities within the unit for tactical analysis of live cases and assistance with cold cases
- The development of a national picture of missing via strategic analysis and the production of problem profiles and strategic assessments
- Feedback to forces on their compliance with the code
- Validation and extension of the Grampian research on understanding, planning and responding to missing persons cases and encouraging its use by all forces (the original research is available on our Genesis website at www.genesis.pnn.police.uk/genesis)
- Training on investigation of missing persons
- International co-ordination building a network of contacts with overseas missing persons bureaux
- Co-ordination of the provision of support to families of missing people
- Continued improvement of our support to forces
- Improved co-ordination with our partners and charities
- A review of asylum and linked issues

We will continue to provide the best support and advice to the police and our partners and stakeholders in the investigation of missing and unidentified person and body cases. We will work to drive improvement within the strategic arena of missing persons.

Police National Search Centre - 'Excellence in Search' Training

The NPJA's ability to provide operational expertise and support has been enhanced by the addition of the Police National Search Centre (PNSC) in April 2009. This unit, which previously operated in Chattenden in Kent, has now moved to Bramshill.

The PNSC moved over to the NPJA following a recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) where they recommended that the PNSC migrate from the Home Office to the NPJA. The PNSC is headed up by Superintendent Garry King.

The PNSC was established following the IRA bomb attack on the Conservative Party Conference at the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984. Since then it has developed a worldwide reputation for counter-terrorism search, training and security co-ordination.

The PNSC is unique within the NPJA because it's conjoined with the National Search Centre of the Royal School of Military Engineering, so officers from the British Army Royal Engineers work alongside police officers. This collaborative working ensures the latest challenges in search are incorporated into training courses and quickly shared with operational colleagues.

The PNSC training delivery is recognised as excellent throughout the country and further afield. Initially designed to deal with counter-terrorist search, over recent years this focus has been broadened to include other specific search applications such as crime scene and missing person search. The unit is the only authorised counter-terrorism search training provider to the UK police service and has trained and equipped more than 1,000 officers each year on search, security co-ordination and missing persons search management. The centre also delivers training abroad. Most recently it has delivered training to the United States Secret Service, the Trinidad and Tobago police and several countries in the Middle East.

Typical search training lasts one week and covers terrorist threats and methods of attack, assessing the vulnerability of venues and events, systematic search procedures, forensic recovery of exhibits and establishing safety drills for explosive and non-explosive finds.

Want to know more? Email: pns@npja.pnn.police.uk



What's new?



New Series of BBC Missing Live TV

The new, second series of Missing Live returned to our TV screens on Monday 16th March on BBC1 from 9.15 to 10.00 am, on each weekday morning for a month. The programme is presented by Louise Minchin and Rav Wilding and details the work of police and the charity Missing People as they investigate missing person cases and ask viewers for assistance to solve new and long-term cases. This series follows on from the successful first series broadcast last year, where 17 of the cases featured have now been resolved, of which seven were as a direct result of the appeals during the show. A great result.

Presumption of Death Bill 2008-09

A Private Members' Bill (Ballot Bill) was introduced by Tim Boswell, the Conservative MP for Daventry. This Bill was presented, through the ballot procedure, to Parliament on 21st January 2009. This is known as the First Reading and there was no debate on the Bill. It was on the Order Paper for a Second Reading debate on 27th March 2009.

This Bill would enable the High Court to make a 'declaration of presumed death' where a missing person is thought to have died, or has not been known to be alive for at least seven years. A Register of Presumed Deaths would be maintained by the Registrar General. Any person would be able to apply to the High Court for the making of a declaration. However, where the application was made by someone who is not a spouse, civil partner, or close relative of the missing person, the High Court would hear the application only if the applicant had a 'sufficient interest' in the making of the declaration. We will be monitoring the progress of this bill and send more information to forces on its progression and what it means for missing persons cases.

New mailbox for Missing Persons press releases

We have a new mailbox for your missing and unidentified person press releases. The new address is: **MPB.PressRelease@npia.pnn.police.uk**

Please include this address on your distribution lists relating to missing persons e-mails and please inform your press office. Thank you.

What's Planned?

Guidance on Missing from Home or Care

The DCSF is currently consulting on its revised statutory guidance for Local Authorities on Children Missing from Home or Care. In the Young Runaways Action Plan, published in June 2008, the Government committed to updating guidance for local authorities on supporting children and young people who go missing from home or care. The existing guidance was published by the Department of Health in 2002. The draft guidance has been produced with help and support from statutory and voluntary sector delivery partners. The DCSF is now inviting comments on the draft as part of a formal consultation process.

The consultation started on 14th January 2009 and will be closing on 8th April 2009, so do log on to its website soon to find out more and add your comments at: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1597&external=no&menu=1>



Our Partners



The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) was established by Congress in 1984 as a private, non-profit organisation to provide services for families and professionals in the prevention of abducted, endangered, and sexually exploited children throughout the United States. NCMEC's team of more than 350 staff includes former law enforcement officers with experience at federal, state, and local levels, as well as forensics experts, technologists, analysts, attorneys, and social workers.

NCMEC's aims are to help prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; help find missing children; and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

NCMEC carries out a wide variety of services, including;

- Serves as a clearinghouse of information about missing and exploited children
- Operates a CyberTipline that the public may use to report Internet-related child sexual exploitation
- Provides technical assistance to individuals and law-enforcement agencies in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving missing and exploited children
- Assists the U.S. Department of State in certain cases of international child abduction in accordance with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction
- Offers training programs to law-enforcement and social-service professionals
- Distributes photographs and descriptions of missing children
- Assists law enforcement in distributing AMBER alert (US Child Rescue Alert system) information to the public

- Co-ordinates child-protection efforts with the private sector
- Networks with non-profit service providers and state clearinghouses about missing person cases
- Works with law enforcement and the private sector to reduce the distribution of child pornography over the Internet
- Provides information about effective state legislation to help ensure the protection of children
- Deploys Team Adam, a rapid response and support system comprised of retired law enforcement officers, to provide on-site technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies investigating cases of child abduction and sexual exploitation.
- Co-ordinates Team HOPE (Help Offering Parents Empowerment) providing assistance to families with missing children by offering peer support, resources, and empowerment from trained volunteers. The volunteers are parents, siblings, and extended family members who have experienced or are currently living with the pain of a missing child. They have turned their personal tragedies into vital lifelines of support for other families.

More details on the work of NCMEC can be found on their web site: www.missingkids.com. This site is also the gateway to the Missing Kids sites for other members of the Global Missing Children's Network (GMCN). Members include the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain and the UK.

Our Partners



The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) was launched in 1998 to meet the demand for support and assistance from other countries. ICMEC aims to identify and co-ordinate a global network of organisations fighting child-sexual exploitation and abduction.

ICMEC provides support, training, and expertise to numerous countries, organisations, and law enforcement officers across the world.

The Missing Persons Bureau works alongside PACT as the UK part of their Global Missing Children's Network (GMCN).

Just some of the many activities of ICMEC are:

- Establishing a global resource to find missing children and prevent child-sexual exploitation
- Creating national centres and affiliates worldwide
- Building an international network to disseminate images of and information about missing and exploited children
- Providing training to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, legal professionals, non-governmental organisations, and government officials
- Advocating and proposing legislative changes in laws, treaties, and systems to protect children worldwide
- Conducting International expert conferences to build awareness, encourage and increase co-operation and collaboration between and among countries
- Working along side financial industry and law enforcement to combat commercial child-sexual exploitation.

The GMCN was one of ICMECs first programmes and has connected 17 countries together. In November 2008 they hosted the first 3 day training for all members (article in last newsletter) and continue to co-ordinate efforts between the members.

ICMEC, in collaboration with the Find Madeleine Campaign and YouTube, has also launched the first global channel dedicated to finding missing children worldwide. The Internet channel, www.youtube.com/dontyouforgetaboutme, features videos of missing children which can be viewed by anyone across the globe. Parents and law enforcement can submit videos to ICMEC to be added to the channel at any time and from anywhere.

Further information on ICMEC and their services may be found on their site: www.icmec.org



Our Partners

The www.missingkids.co.uk website is the UK site which is part of ICMEC's Global Missing Children's Network, launched in June 2000.

The Missing Kids Website enables law enforcement agencies to instantly disseminate photographs of, and information on, missing children around the world for the public to view 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Only trained police officers and Bureau staff can input information on the website and the content is fully protected from unauthorised interference by a complex security system.

The site allows posters to be quickly and easily distributed and it enables police forces to instantly transmit the photograph and details of a missing child to other police forces throughout the UK as well as around the world.

The site also contains advice on how to keep children safe, information on hoax emails and useful links to other associated organisations. The website also contains advice for parents.

The UK Missing Kids Website is the only site of this kind approved by the Home Office, ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) and ACPO(S) (Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland). The site is managed in co-ordination with our partners Parents and Abducted Children Together, EMCOR, Tesco and AMScreen.

Don't forget to let the Bureau know if you have a case of a missing child who you think should be placed on the Missing Kids site. Visit the site now at www.missingkids.co.uk



Operational case appeals

Samantha Wright



Lothian and Borders Police are anxious to trace a 25 year old woman who has not been seen since June 2008. Samantha Wright, is 5ft 5in, of medium build with long wavy dark brown hair. She originates from Stevenage in England, where her family still lives. Samantha moved to Scotland in 2004 and a few months before going missing she moved into a flat in Edinburgh. She is an independent person but concerns increased when she failed to make contact with any of her family at Christmas or on her birthday.

Initial enquiries have failed to explain the disappearance of Samantha. The investigation team are keeping an open mind as to what may have happened to Samantha but it is of concern that she has apparently abandoned her flat and all of her possessions without telling anyone where she was going.

If you can assist with the investigation in any way, please contact Lothian and Borders Police on **0131 6222424** or ourselves on **0808 100 8777**.

Still missing - two year anniversary for Sajid Saddique



Sajid is an Asian man with a northern accent from Bradford, West Yorkshire. He was last seen on 12th February 2007 and was reported missing two days later. There are concerns that he may have come to harm. At the time of his disappearance he was 32, and would now be 34 years old. He is 5ft 8in with short, black, hair, brown eyes and of medium build. He was last seen wearing black Hugo Boss footwear, a white top and blue jeans. If you can assist with the investigation in any way, please contact West Yorkshire Police on **01924 375 222** or ourselves on **0808 100 8777**.

Unidentified body - can you put a name to the man found in woodland in South Buckinghamshire?

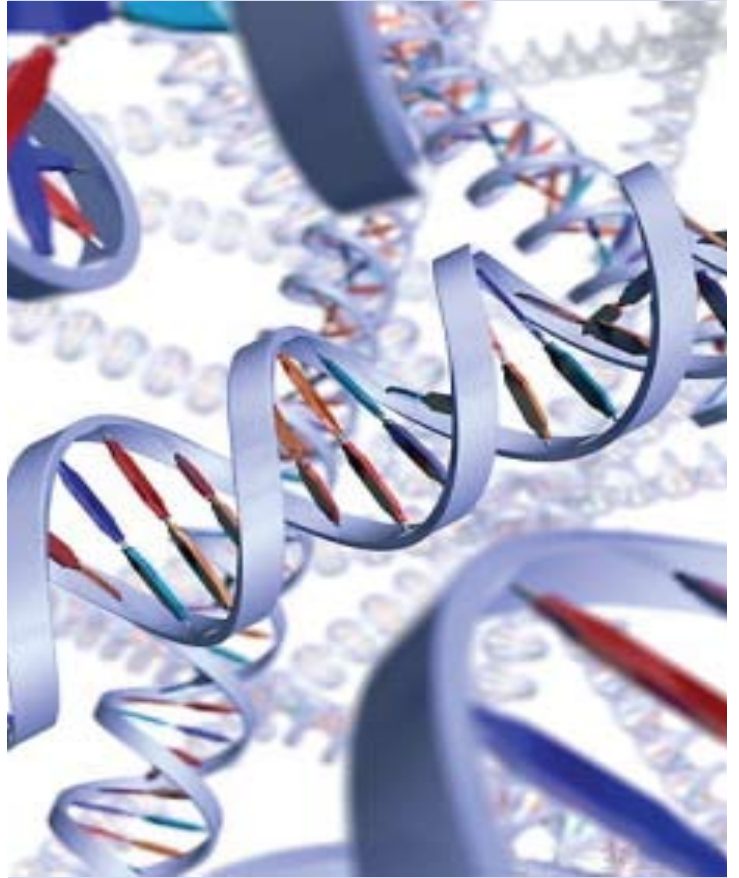


On Monday 9th February 2009 the skeletal remains of a male were found in Broadsprings wood, Gerrards Cross. This is woodland adjacent to junction 16 M25, slip road onto the M40 towards Uxbridge. The police became aware of the remains on receipt of an anonymous letter from a member of the public who had discovered them. Enquiries with local residents and land owners have led the police to believe that the body is that of a male who had been living rough in the woods for many years. It is believed that the male was Scottish, possibly from Glasgow and between 40 and 60 years old. He would have been approximately 5ft 7in tall with dark hair greying. He is known to have had a full beard at times although he did sometimes shave. This man was known to beg in the Uxbridge town centre area and frequently shopped in the Uxbridge branch of Tesco's. He would either walk or catch a bus to Uxbridge. If you can assist please contact Thames Valley police on **01628 601922** or ourselves on **0808 100 8777**.

In development

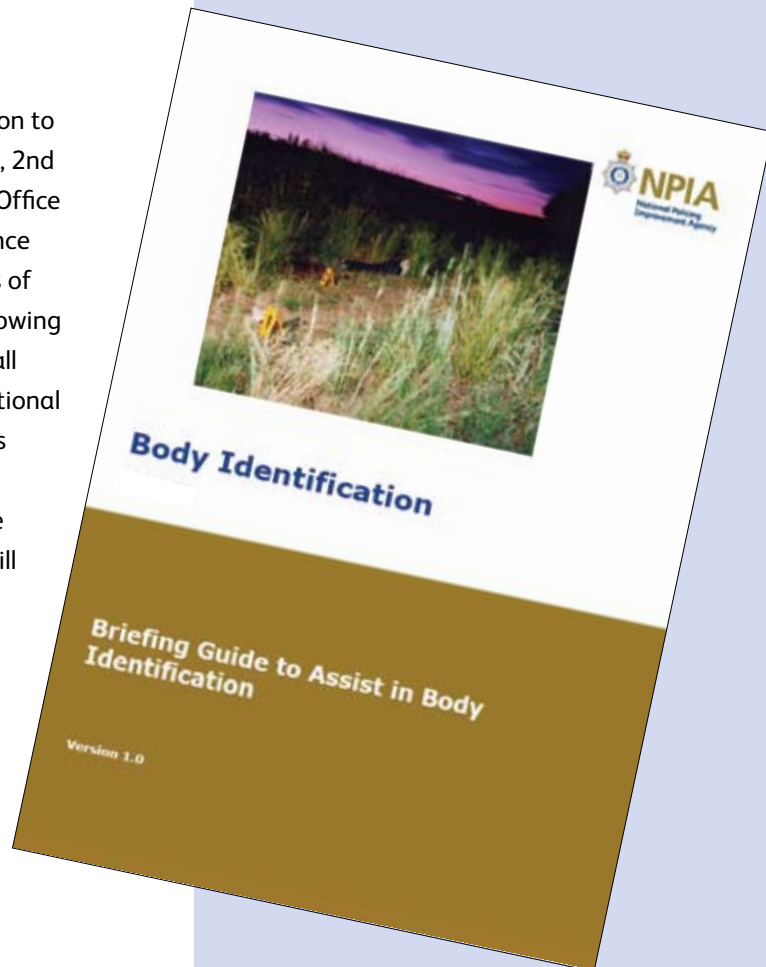
Missing Persons DNA Database update

Work continues attempting to move the National Missing Persons DNA Database into the NPIA. As part of this, the process for adding profiles relating to unidentified bodies/ remains on the National DNA Database has been revised, with a specific marker now available to identify these cases on the database. Work is being undertaken with the forensic suppliers to ensure that this marker is used consistently and when appropriate. A review process is underway to ensure that the information held on the National Missing Persons DNA Database is accurate, prior to the migration and development of the database to NPIA. At present it is not possible to give a specific date when this will occur, but we will keep all forces updated as the work progresses.



Identification Guidance

As part of the review we are undertaking in relation to unidentified bodies and remains (see The Bureau, 2nd edition for details), Professor Guy Ruddy, a Home Office Forensic Pathologist, has produced a draft guidance document to assist investigators with the process of body identification. The guidance document, following consultation and approval, will be distributed to all forces via ourselves, and the NPIA's Crime Operational Support and Specialist Operations Centre. It gives an overview of the various forensic methods and specialists that may be involved to assist with the process of human identification. This guidance will be distributed within the next few months.



About us

We provide a free cross-matching service to police officers to assist with matching up details of missing persons cases with unidentified person or body cases across the UK. We maintain a database of:

- All persons missing in the UK for over 72* hours, or sooner where the force feels the case warrants more urgent attention
- All foreign nationals reported missing in the UK
- All UK nationals reported missing abroad
- All unidentified bodies or persons found within the UK

We use this database to help match unidentified bodies/persons to reports of missing persons.

Call us on **01256 602979** or email missingpersons bureau@npia.pnn.police.uk and we'll send the necessary forms to you. Please submit comprehensive details of the case to us using the same email address or by fax to **01256 692571** to enable cross-matching searches to be carried out on your case.

* For forces that have adopted the Code of Practice.



The role of our Intelligence Officers

The Intelligence Officers (IOs) deal with enquiries from police forces, where they offer support and advice on a case-by-case basis. Once a notification of a 'misper' is received by the Intelligence Officer, they are prioritised by their risk assessment level and input onto our Hermes database. Hermes is then used to search relevant keywords and categories to try and match up unidentified bodies with the 'misper'.

The database also brings back results of suspicious circumstances, such as clothing being found on a beach. If there are positive results from the searches then a report is sent out to the officer in charge with the results. If there are no similarities, a nil report is sent out and the case is reviewed at a later date, depending on the level of risk. There is also a specialised search function called 'comes to notice', which is for attention seekers. This function has been invaluable for resolving a large number of unidentified people over the years.

In addition to their core operational work, each IO is involved in project work, such as maintaining the Missing Kids website and the unidentified bodies review, development of a new national child rescue alert or the update to the ACPO guidance on missing persons.

IO's play an active role in solving missing person cases and rely on a high degree of accuracy in order to do their job efficiently. For more information, please contact us on **01256 602979**.

Highlights of the job

'I love being involved in the investigation, especially when I have to liaise with the force a lot. It makes me feel part of the whole investigation.' Tamsin

'We often get enquires from members of the public about a loved ones whereabouts. It is often a case of contacting the local police forces and getting them to send out an officer to do a welfare check. When these enquiries are resolved, you often get feedback from a family member, which makes your job feel worthwhile.' Alan



Leicestershire
Constabulary

MISSING



Malgorzata Wnuczek (DOB: 4 June 1979)

On July 11 2005, a Polish National by the name of **Malgorzata Wnuczek** arrived in England and lived in the Knighton Fields area of Leicester, with her husband and 2-year-old daughter.

In June 2006 Malgorzata's parents, who live in Poland, reported her missing to the polish police. They last spoke to Malgorzata by telephone on Sunday May 28 2006.

Malgorzata is described as blonde with green eyes, aged 29, 170cm (5'7") tall and of thin build. Her English is poor.

If you know Malgorzata, her current whereabouts or the circumstances of her disappearance, then please contact Leicestershire Constabulary quoting '**Operation Manually**' on (0116) 248 4162 or you can email op.manually@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk



You can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



www.leics.police.uk



Contact us

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