



# UK Missing Persons Bureau Newsletter

## Missing People Carol Service



### Christmas working hours

Normal office hours, minus the bank holidays.



On Monday 7th December, the UK MPB and Missing People's Charity held their annual Carol Service at St Martins in the Fields Church in Trafalgar Square.

The service was led by Rev. Katherine Hedderly who reminded us all to keep those who were missing this Christmas time in our thoughts and prayers. As the evening progressed there were performances from the Choral Scholars and the Royal Mail Choir including traditional hymns and a song

written by Alice Gross – 'Don't Let it Go Away'. Poems and tributes from family members, of those who had gone missing, reminded all those present of the heartache families suffer when experiencing loss – whether permanent or temporary.

The service also included Biblical readings from patrons of the Charity such as Amanda Redmond, a leading television actress, retelling the Christmas story. The service concluded with the lighting of candles, which was conducted beautifully, followed by a blessing from the Reverend. Following,

this there was a mince pie reception in the Crypt, which was enjoyed by all.

Overall, the evening was a great success and a lovely occasion to remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas and remember those who are not able to be present with us at this special time.



## Data Report 2013/14 and 2014/15

The Missing Persons Bureau has produced two High Level Data Reports for years 2013/14 and 2014/15. These high level data reports provide an overview of missing and absent person cases for both financial years. Full data analysis reports are being prepared for both financial years and these will be published before the end of March 2016.

The data used to produce the reports has been provided by 44 police services in England, Wales and Scotland. The data has been taken from the following police

systems;

**1. Command and control System:** Used for the recording and management of information relating to incidents received by a police service control room and the subsequent allocation and management of police resources.

**2. Missing person systems:** A case management system used by a police service to manage the investigation of missing person cases.

The data for 2014/15 shows a 3% increase in the overall number of command and control missing incidents when compared with 2013/14. Of the

44 police services that provided data, 16 have seen a decrease and 26 an increase in the number of missing incidents. The remaining 2 forces have yet to provide data.

Absent was introduced as a category in April 2013. For the year 2014/15 the number of police services implementing the absent category has doubled from 16 in 2013/14 to 32.





## Child Rescue Alert Conference

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the NCA's CEOP Command hosted a one-day Child Rescue Alert (CRA) conference. Representatives from 38 UK police forces attended the event to develop their knowledge and understanding of CRA.

The event introduced police forces to enhancements that have recently been made possible through the support of the NCA's CRA partners Missing People and Groupcall. Alerts are now able to be targeted on a

local, regional, or national basis.

Case studies from Police Scotland and Nottinghamshire Police that have used CRA were presented to provide officers with valuable insights in to real life application. Charlie Hedges, the current European Alert Coordinator for AMBER Alert Europe, spoke about the links that the UK CRA system has with other international child alert systems and the

benefits of this for international-scale investigations. Force representatives were also provided with information about the tactical support that can be provided by the NCA and Missing People in the event of a launch scenario.

As an outcome of the conference the CEOP Command will be establishing a more regular forum of engagement with strategic leads for CRA within police forces.

## Good news story

On 16th November 2015 we received a phone call from a member of staff at a mental health charity based in the Republic of Ireland called 'Focus Ireland'. She informed us that they had a person who was using their services in Dublin. This person was, at the time, suffering from poor mental health and although

unable to provide details of any family members or a home address, he was able to give his name and date of birth.

We were able to establish that the individual was a UK missing person who was last seen at an informal patient in a residential home. At this point we advised Focus Ireland to contact the Garda in Ireland to inform

them of the circumstances, whilst we made contact with the relevant UK police force. They agreed to follow this up with an enquiry to the Garda through Interpol. The individual was seen to be safe and well by a Garda Officer on 19th November 2015 and the UK missing persons case subsequently closed.

## New Director General

On the 26th November 2015 it was announced that Lynne Owens will be the next Director General of the National Crime Agency, starting in January 2016. Lynne states that she is personally motivated by two main things - the service we provide to the public and the service she, in her new role, can provide to us.

Lynne began her policing career in 1989 when she joined the Metropolitan Police Service. Over the years she has held various senior roles in different forces. In August 2011, she became responsible for the Specialist Crime Directorate, and became head of the Specialist Crime and Operations Directorate. Following this appointment she was the overall commander of the policing for the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton that took place in April 2011, and the state visit by American President Barack Obama in May 2011.

In February 2012, Lynne was selected to become the Chief Constable of Surrey Police, becoming the first woman to head the force. It was then announced in November, 2015 that she would be replacing Keith Bristow as the new Director General of the NCA. We would like to wish her all the best for her time here at the NCA and wish Keith a very happy retirement.



*On behalf of all of us here at UK MPB we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

[missingpersons bureau@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:missingpersons bureau@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk)

08450005481 / +44(0)1344872572