

UK Missing Persons Unit Newsletter

Data Report 2016/17

In July, the UKMPU published the latest data report, providing summary statistics and outlining key trends for 2016/17. The MPU has continued to work with police to enhance the report, and for the first time data was included from all 45 UK police forces, including Northern Ireland.

Points of interest:

Overall, there were 124 more missing *incidents* recorded per day in 2016/17 than in 2015/16. This is compared to 37 more missing *individuals* recorded per day, implying

that increasing reports are related to repeat missing episodes.

Although 54% of all reports had an unknown/unspecified reason for being missing, where this was provided, 78.8% of adults had a health (physical or mental) reason for going missing compared to 28.7% in children.

More forces were able to supply data on time periods spent missing. This showed a slight increase in length of time people were missing - with 73% of cases being resolved within 24hrs,

compared to 79% in the previous year. The new data from Northern Ireland was able to show 88% of their cases were resolved within 24hrs.

This is just a small snapshot of the data included in the report. A full copy, and all previous reports can be downloaded from the [MPU website](#).

The next data report, which will cover 2017-19 is currently underway, thanks to our new data analyst, Elnas Patel.

Can you help identify this person?

We are seeking assistance to identify a man, believed to be aged 40-60, who was found deceased on 01 December 2017 in Micheldever, Hampshire. This is how we believe the man may have looked. For more details see the case on our [website](#).



Upcoming Events

- **21st–23rd Oct**— LEPH 2019 Conference (Law Enforcement and Public Health) in Edinburgh
- **4th–6th Dec**— GMCN Conference (Global Missing Children's Network) in Lisbon, Portugal
- **9th Dec**— Missing People Carol Service at St-Martin-in-the-Fields, London; tickets are available [here](#).

Learning the Lessons

The MPU's Joe Apps has been working with the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) to draw out good practice when someone goes missing, which will be published in a special edition of the 'Learning the Lesson' bulletin.

The IOPC oversees the police complaints system in England and Wales. They investigate the most serious matters, including deaths following police contact, and use the learning from their work to influence changes in policing.

Bulletin 36, due for publication in December, will focus solely on the lessons learned from investigations involving missing persons. Anyone with a professional or personal interest in this area will find this bulletin informative. It will be available from the IOPC website, but keep an eye on our twitter feed, we will let you know when it is out!

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CRA Update



Following the new NPCC lead for missing's recommendation at the most recent CRA development board, a task and finish group was held on the 19th August to discuss the future of CRA.

The discussions between representatives from the UKMPU, police forces, and media team were positive and productive, leading to a number of recommendations. These have since been circulated to the Strategic Leads for CRA in each Police force, and feedback is now being collated. This will be reviewed by the NPCC lead, and we hope to be able to confirm plans for the future of this service in the new year.

Staffing Updates

After a lengthy process, the unit has recently welcomed three new Operations Officers and two new placement students. Each of them has provided a brief bio below. We also hope to welcome more new starters in the coming months.

Ella Noble

I have joined the UKMPU after previously working within the NCA Vetting department. Prior to this I graduated from Cardiff University, studying Criminology and Social Policy, where I first heard of the agency and its achievements. I am extremely excited at the thought of gaining invaluable new knowledge and expertise within this role.

Carla Parfitt

Prior to joining the MPU I have worked in the NCA Recruitment Team for two years and before that as a Call Taker for Thames Valley and Avon and Somerset Police. I am thrilled to be part of the MPU and excited to gain new knowledge that will build on the previous knowledge I gained whilst working with the Police.

Elnas Patel

I gained a BSc (Hons) in Mathematics, Statistics and Computing from University of London (Birkbeck College). For the last 2 years I have been contracting either for Universities or Government Agencies and as a result I am now able to work within the UKMPU. My current role is to collate and analyse all the data on our missing persons Data Returns from Police Forces, and report on them to support senior management decision making.

Annabel Bean

I am currently studying towards my degree in Psychology with Criminology at Loughborough University, and am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to spend a year with the MPU. I look forward to getting involved with as much as possible, and hope to gain knowledge and skills that will benefit both myself and the unit.

Ryan Forster

I am a placement student studying Psychology at the University of Reading and will be spending a year in the MPU as part of my 4 year course. I am looking forward to the year of experience I will gain from this placement, and hopefully will be able to forge connections in the NCA that I can use after my degree.

We also said goodbye to **Louise Vesely-Shore**, who has left us after 11 and a half years. She says a big thank you to everyone who works so passionately to improve the way we respond to missing, in the UK and internationally.

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