

# Help me find my Martin

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By Stephen Breen

THE devastated father of a missing Co Down man last night slammed police for failing to conduct a fresh search for his son.

Raymond Kelly - whose son Martin has been missing since New Year's Day 2006 - hit out after claiming cops asked him if he could wait another month before a new search was undertaken.

But a police spokeswoman told Sunday Life that no new searches have been arranged.

Martin (22) went missing after New Year drinks with friends at Pat's Bar in Belfast's docks area.

He left the pub and CCTV footage showed him walking towards the Prudential building at Clarendon Dock.

His devastated dad spoke to us last month and urged police to conduct a search of an old Victorian storm drain located 40ft from where Martin was last seen alive.

Although a major search of the area was conducted last August, police have been unable to locate the missing man.

Said Mr Kelly: "I know the police have already conducted a number of searches since last August, but I'm bewildered as to why they want to wait another month.

"We have been waiting for the last two years and I can't see why they can't just get this search out of the way.

"The police seem to be assuming that Martin is not there, but this isn't good enough."

He added: "Some of the trained sniffer dogs have picked up a scent coming from the drain, but the police believe this could be a dead animal.

"The only way they will know this for sure is if they conduct a thorough search of the drain with cameras.

"I would like the police to show some imagination in relation to this search and it's the only thing I have asked them to do. There's no way this search should take a month to organise."

Raymond also urged local drainage companies to assist him in his efforts to find his son.

He added: "There are companies out there who specialise in drainage work and I would love to meet with any of them to discuss the search for my son."

A police spokeswoman said they were determined to discover what happened to Martin, adding: "Police remain committed and determined to discovering what happened to Martin and to bringing closure to his family.

"A full and comprehensive independent review has been carried out into the case by a team of detectives and experts who examined the investigation including all the searches and enquiries to date to assess if any further action could be taken.

"A meeting was set up between Martin's father Raymond Kelly where all of the details of the review were fully discussed. It is not expected that there will be any further searches."

Since Martin's disappearance, his family has searched relentlessly for him, making trips to the Republic, Scotland, England and Wales.

sbreen@belfasttelegraph.co.uk

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