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Missing man's family begin tour

The mother of a County Down man missing for almost six months is beginning a month-long journey around the UK to raise awareness of his disappearance.



Martin Kelly went missing in Belfast's docks area

Martin Kelly, a 22-year-old apprentice plumber from Holywood, was last seen leaving Pat's Bar in Belfast's docks area on New Year's Day.

Despite extensive underwater searches, he has not been found and his family do not know if he is alive or dead.

Their tour will see them stop off in 14 cities across the UK.

In February, the family launched a website to try to gain clues to Martin's whereabouts.

They have also handed out leaflets and put up posters in Belfast in their search for information.

At the end of January, a crowd of 300 people released balloons with notes for the missing man before searching between Belfast docks and Holywood.

The police search has included divers, boats, dogs and a helicopter and has also seen CCTV footage released.

'Our first journey'

However, no trace of Mr Kelly has yet been found.

On the night of his disappearance, he had stayed on in the bar after his friends left and was seen leaving it on his own at about 1910 GMT.

Martin's mother Karen said: "We plan to reach over 14 destinations, right across from Glasgow down to London and then head up to Wales.

"We will be raising awareness in the hope of finding Martin and bringing him home, and also to raise awareness for the missing persons deadline.

"We are hoping that even our first journey to Glasgow may turn something up.

"It is the first time that a mother has gone out to look for her child. I know Martin is now 22 years of age, but to all mothers who are out there, 22 is still just a very young child."

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