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New police move over missing man

The family of a missing County Down man have welcomed news that police are to renew their search for him.

Martin Kelly, 21, from Holywood, was last seen in Belfast's docks area on New Year's Day after going with friends to Pat's Bar in Garmoyle Street.

Divers, boats and sonar equipment are to be used in a two-week operation to begin on Monday.

Paul Kelly, Martin's brother-in-law, believes the family's campaign forced the police into action.

"No missing person would get this level of support at this stage from police unless there was pressure, not only from the family but also from the media as well as large backing and support from the public," he said.

Mr Kelly said the family believed every person who goes missing had the right to be found quickly and that searches should be done speedily and effectively.

"It is only by the pressure we have put on as a family to the police that these searches are taking place," he said.

The family met PSNI assistant chief constable Duncan McCausland on Wednesday to appeal for more help.

It is understood divers plan to search for 300 metres on either side of the railings where a person was spotted on CCTV on the night Mr Kelly went missing.

The family and friends of the missing man have also launched a website to try to gain clues to his whereabouts.

On Thursday, his family and friends were outside Belfast City Hall handing out leaflets and posters containing the new website address.

A large banner of the address has also been printed.

Taxi driver

The PSNI have also renewed their appeal for information about Mr Kelly's disappearance.

They said they want to hear from anyone who may have seen him in a nightclub or other premises on the night of 1 January or from any taxi driver who may have collected him and taken him elsewhere.

Mr Kelly's family and friends have previously criticised the police for not doing enough to find him.

Since his disappearance, they have handed out leaflets outside city hall and the Odyssey arena, in an attempt to jog people's memory and gain information.

Last Sunday, they released 100 yellow balloons, before taking part in a search of the docklands and surrounding areas.

Many people also took part in a walk from Pat's Bar back to Mr Kelly's home town of Holywood in County Down.

On the same day, police used dogs and a helicopter, as well as boats, to search from Dee Street in east Belfast to the Holywood Exchange.

Mr Kelly, a plumber and part-time barman, stayed on in Pat's Bar after his friends left and was seen leaving it alone at about 1910 GMT.



Martin Kelly went missing in Belfast

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Paul Kelly welcomed the news

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