

## Local News

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### Divers Join In Hunt For 21-Year-Old

By Alistair Bushe

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Army divers will today step up the search for missing Co Down man Martin Kelly.

Divers, boats and sonar equipment are to be used in a two-week operation to locate the 21-year-old who disappeared in Belfast on New Year's Day.

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

Mr Kelly's friend Joe McCormick last night welcomed confirmation that a major search was about to get underway.

The Kelly family previously expressed concern that the police weren't doing enough to find Martin.

"It's reassuring that the search is about to start after the uphill struggle that we've had in these last few weeks," said Joe.

"Finally the police seem to be taking the whole thing as seriously as they should have from the start."

Mr McCormick said family members are bearing up well considering the terrible circumstances they find themselves in. "Martin's mother Karen has been a pillar of strength for everyone," he added. "But as time goes by it doesn't get any easier.

"It's five weeks today since he disappeared and it's been incredibly difficult. "Ultimately this is about elimination. "The land searches haven't turned up anything and now we have to see if a search of the water does.

"If Martin is in the water at least that gives us a sense of closure."

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