



International Investigations

Any reports of missing persons overseas will, in the first instance, be investigated by the relevant agency within the country where the person went missing.

If the matter is reported to Northumbria Police, the Force will conduct a risk assessment depending on the country involved, complete a Yellow Diffusion form (details of the missing person that will be shared around the Interpol network), and forward this via the International Liaison officer (ILO) to United Kingdom International Crime Bureau (UKICB) – INTERPOL (this sits within the NCA in Warrington).

This report can then be assessed and transmitted to the overseas force responsible for the investigation. Officers will consider investigative opportunities that can be progressed in the UK to support the country carrying out the investigation, e.g. obtaining a DNA sample.

It is important that all persons believed to be missing abroad or with an international link are flagged as 'missing abroad' on the Initial Record screen of the HRN. Contact should be made with the International Policing Unit in Intelligence, Force Coordination and Operations Department who will be able to assist with enquiries in other countries.

Any UK National reported missing from any country outside of the UK (including anyone reported missing from a vessel outside UK waters) and reported to the UK (usually through INTERPOL channels) will be dealt with by the home force of the missing person or the closest relative of the missing person.

Investigation Initial considerations – Identify if there is any possibility of foreign travel or links abroad

Premises searches – have passports and other identification documents been removed? Is the missing person a foreign national or do they have family abroad? Does the missing person have links to a country outside of the UK? Do they travel any regular routes? Check bank transactions for any travel related purchases.

Interpol circulation

If it is believed there are international links but there is no information as to which country the missing person may be in, an INTERPOL circulation may be an appropriate option. Missing people are circulated on an I-24/7 utilising Yellow diffusions or Notices.

Your International Liaison Officer (ILO) can provide support and guidance.

The Force ILO is contactable via International Policing Unit for advice Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm. For urgent matters outside of these hours the FIM should be contacted.

Who else can assist with an international missing person enquiry?

- The Joint International Crime Centre (JICC) has expertise around Missing Persons. They are the UK national and international point of contact for all missing person and unidentified body investigations. They provide support and advice to police forces and work alongside the police and other relevant organisations.
- The Regional Tactical Adviser is an NCA Officer available locally to provide advice around High Risk missing persons.



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- The NCA International Liaison Officer network are NCA officers placed within numerous foreign countries. The NCA ILO network can assist with high risk concern cases
- The Foreign Law Enforcement Community (FLEC) is a representation of approximately 100 Police liaison officer/attaches from at least 28 countries based in London. They are here to progress significant enquiries from their country and will assist with significant enquires from the UK that have connections to their country. Access to the FLECs can be arranged through the JICC

Charitable organisations

- Lucy Blackman Trust provide support for families dealing with a missing person abroad
- Missing People coordinate a communications network including international businesses and media to join the search for a high risk missing person in the UK and abroad.
- Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB) is the only UK charity with an international social work team, and the UK's only member of the International Social Service network, they can alert social services of children missing in the UK in over 120 countries.

All three organisations are essential for international reach.

How can I check if a person I am dealing with is missing from another country?

The Interpol I-24/7 system holds information on missing person circulated with INTERPOL. All forces have a number of staff who are trained in the I-24/7 system often working within intelligence roles, custody units or control rooms.

For help contact:

Force International Liaison Officer, International Policing Unit, Intelligence, Force Coordination and Operations Department

FIB International Policing Mailbox: FIBFNOMailbox@northumbria.police.uk

National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC) 0161 209 2919 (24hrs)

nbtc@gmp.pnn.police.uk

NCA Missing Persons Unit 0800 234 6034

UK International Crime Bureau 0207 238 8115 (24hrs) for advice on international circulation and access to international ILOs and the FLEC

International Crime Coordination Centre 0300 790 0000 (24hrs) for advice on ongoing investigations and access to the FLEC