

Madeleine McCann detectives arrive in Portugal to question 11 suspects

Detectives investigating the disappearance of Madeleine McCann are expected to begin questioning 11 people on Tuesday.

British police working on the hunt for the missing girl are thought to have arrived in the Algarve to take part in interviews with individuals who it is thought may have information relating to the case.

They will spend three days working on the case alongside their Portuguese counterparts, according to reports.

Scotland Yard has declined to comment, saying it will not provide a “running commentary” on the inquiry.

The delegation in Portugal is believed to include the incoming head of the British side of the investigation after it emerged last week that the officer who has led Operation Grange since it was launched in 2011 is to step down before Christmas.

DCI Nicola Wall will replace DCI Andy Redwood, who is to retire, on 22 December.

Scotland Yard said a handover was taking place and Kate and Gerry McCann, Madeleine’s parents, had been informed of the change.

British officers spent eight days searching three areas of land in the Algarve resort of Praia da Luz in June, close to where Madeleine disappeared more than seven years ago, but found no new evidence.

Madeleine, then aged three, disappeared from her holiday apartment on 3 May 2007 as her parents dined at a nearby tapas restaurant with friends.

Portuguese police closed down their investigation in 2008 but the Met police launched an operation three years later.