

Madeleine McCann case: Scotland Yard identifies new leads

Scotland Yard has identified several people who may be "of interest" in the case of [Madeleine McCann](#), who was abducted in Portugal in 2007.

Investigators conducting a review have drawn up a list of people who could be properly explored if the Portuguese authorities re-opened the case.

Detective chief superintendent Hamish Campbell, head of Scotland Yard's homicide and serious crime command, said there were a "good number" of individuals who should be questioned.

Madeleine was nearly four when she went missing from her family's holiday apartment in Praia de Luz as her parents, Kate and Gerry McCann, dined with friends nearby.

Scotland Yard launched a review of the case in 2011, after the prime minister, David Cameron, responded to a plea from Madeleine's parents. The official Portuguese inquiry was shelved in 2008.

In a statement, Campbell said: "The purpose of the review was to look at the case with fresh eyes and there is always real benefit in doing so. The review has further identified both investigative and forensic opportunities to support the Portuguese.

"There is more than a handful of people of interest which could be explored further if only to be eliminated.

"The key things are to investigate the case and our work is happening to support the Portuguese."

Last year the review team led by Detective Chief Inspector Andy Redwood said it had identified 195 potential leads after examining a huge bundle of material.

It was "perfectly probable" that information which could identify the person responsible for Madeleine's disappearance was already within the Portuguese files, Campbell said.

"We have to ask ourselves why are cases unsolved and, on many occasions, we find we passed the suspects by already and the suspect sits within our system," [he told the London Evening Standard](#).

"The Portuguese hopefully will pursue some of these investigative opportunities with our assistance. There is room for further work and collaboration to resolve the case" he added.

Detectives from the Scotland Yard team have travelled to [Portugal](#) around 10 times to liase with the authorities there and gather evidence in an inquiry which has reportedly cost more than £2m.

So far, Portugal's attorney general has ruled out a fresh inquiry.