

Madeleine McCann inquiry reopened by Portuguese police

Portuguese police, who once falsely treated the parents of Madeleine McCann as suspects in her disappearance, have reopened their investigation after discovering new lines of inquiry.

The fresh Portuguese investigation will run in parallel with the Scotland Yard inquiry that produced an edit of a man detectives want to identify and question, and who is yet to come forward.

British police say the Portuguese lines of inquiry are separate, at this stage, to the ones developed by the Yard's investigation.

Kate and Gerry McCann said the developments gave them hope their missing daughter will be found and that those who abducted her will be hunted down.

Madeleine, then aged three, disappeared six years ago during a family holiday in Praia da Luz, southern [Portugal](#), whose police force shelved the case five years ago.

A review by a new team of Portuguese detectives led officials to decide to launch the latest investigation.

In a statement the McCanns said: "We are very pleased that the investigation to find our missing daughter Madeleine has been officially reopened in Portugal.

"We hope that this will finally lead to her being found and to the discovery of whoever is responsible for this crime. Please be patient and respect the work of the police as they endeavour to find the answers we so desperately need."

Last week [Metropolitan police](#) officers flew to Portugal to be briefed on the latest developments from the Portuguese police. The McCanns were briefed at the end of the meeting in Lisbon.

The Met described the developments as "significant" and said detectives from Operation Grange, the UK-led hunt for Madeleine, will now travel regularly to Portugal to liaise with detectives.

Mark Rowley, a Met assistant commissioner, said: "The meeting was very positive, and we and the policia judiciara [Portuguese police] have a shared

determination to do everything possible to discover what happened to Madeleine.

"Colleagues in Portugal fully shared with us the developments in their review, and the fact that they were taking the significant step of applying for the investigation to be formally reopened.

"This is a welcome development, but both sides of the investigation are at relatively early stages, with much work remaining to be done."

The head of the British investigation, Detective Chief Inspector Andy Redwood, made fresh television appeals last week in the United Kingdom, Holland and Germany. Another appeal will be screened on Irish television later this month.

Rowley said: "This new momentum is encouraging, but we still have a way to go, and as with all major investigations, not all lines of enquiry that look promising will yield results."

The home secretary, Theresa May, welcomed the developments. "The police have been working very closely with the Portuguese police and I think they've been developing the evidence and the leads and possibilities of leads that we've seen coming forward recently," she told the BBC.

"I think we've got very good collaboration between the Met and the Portuguese police and I think that is now starting to bear fruit.

"I hope it will enable a resolution of this terrible thing that happened to the McCann family, so that her parents are able to know finally what did happen to Madeleine."