



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

PRESS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK MURDER ENQUIRIES: 'MASSIVE RESPONSE'

More than 2000 calls have been received from the public, offering information to help detectives investigating the murders of three prostitutes in the county.

Between 6am and 11pm yesterday (Tuesday, December 12), Suffolk Constabulary received 2199 calls.

And the Constabulary is getting support from forces across the Eastern Region to help form the largest enquiry team in the force's history.

More than 30 officers have already been drafted in – and more are currently being drafted in through the national mutual aid agreements.

These include enquiry team officers, HOLMES indexers, document readers and exhibit officers.

Detective Chief Superintendent Stewart Gull, head of Suffolk Constabulary's Crime Management Department, said: "The response from the public to our appeals for information has been massive.

"Our task now is to sift through this vast volume of information to prioritise our enquiries into these murders.

"However, it is vitally important that people continue to ring in if they have information. In each of the three murder enquiries, we have a significant gap between when the women were last seen and the discovery of their bodies.

"We need to find out where these women were between these times.

"We are getting good support from the public, media and colleagues in other forces and I would like to extend my thanks to them. An example of this is a £250,000 reward – apparently the largest reward ever – which has been put up by the News of the World newspaper.

Continues...

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“This is a huge enquiry – but the extra help could make a crucial difference.

“However, local people can be reassured that we are, of course, still providing our normal day-to-day policing service, alongside these major investigations.”

The bodies of the two women found yesterday evening remain at the scene, which is cordoned off.

They were found naked, approximately 150 metres apart, on rough ground near the village of Levington.

They are likely to remain at this location, protected from the elements to preserve evidence, for some time until they are transferred to Ipswich Hospital for Home Office post mortem examinations.

It is unlikely that their identities will be confirmed today.

Overnight, police received three reports of prostitutes missing in the area.

As a result of police enquiries, all have been traced and are safe and well.

Det Chief Supt Gull added: “It is important that if anyone has concerns for the safety of a prostitute in Ipswich, that they contact us immediately so that we can make enquiries to trace them.

“We continue to work closely with Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, the Community Drugs Team, and the County Drug and Alcohol Action Team – and there are outreach workers on the ground who are supporting local prostitutes.”

Anyone with information on any of these incidents can:

Contact the telephone hotline on 0800 096 1011

Ring Crimestoppers in confidence on freephone 0800 555 111

Report information on-line at www.suffolk.police.uk

E-mail incident.room@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Text 07624 800174