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Six Silent Killings: Ireland's Vanishing Triangle

While there are currently in excess of 800 Long Term Missing Persons in Ireland, the fate of a number of women who disappeared between 1979 and 1998, has consistently held the Media's attention. Over the years, there have been many Media reports and investigations into the phenomena of the missing women in the area dubbed Ireland's "Vanishing Triangle". These have invariably worked on the theory of a serial killer being responsible.

Whatever the circumstances of their loved ones going, families have carried a great burden for many years and are our prime consideration. We are in direct and frequent contact and see at first hand, the pain and trauma associated with the frequent reopening and laying bare of the details and circumstances of their loved ones disappearance. Their pain can be made worse by these frequent Media intrusions and sensational reporting, families have to balance their desire for continued public awareness and spreading the details as widely as possible, while at the same time losing control of how this is done and in what context – a missing person should never be portrayed as "entertainment". You are handling people's private and sensitive memories and broadcasting them to the nation. You have to be very sensitive with them. Those left to deal with the trauma must be respected.

Each documentary broadcast has come up with various theories on what could have happened and who may be responsible, last night's programme was no different in this respect. In our conversations with families of the women covered in this documentary, we are certain that in the majority of cases, they have a strong opinion on who they think is responsible. Though the physical evidence may not currently exist, their chief suspect would have been known to the victim. There are a few cases where this is not the case and the possibility of one individual being responsible is a viable and reasonable assumption. Obviously any new insights or avenues of possibility are worthy of consideration by the Garda Investigation Teams and our hope is that the new insights raised, will help to bring some of the cases to a close.

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