

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY AT THE NATIONAL MISSING PERSONS HELPLINE DURING Y/E 31 DECEMBER 2025

Foreword

2025 has been another challenging year for everybody at the National Missing Persons Helpline, as living with uncertainty has extended well beyond our community to become the norm for many. It was a great privilege to assist families of missing loved ones during these especially difficult circumstances. With the bulk of interactions now being online, we have seen a huge increase in our followers on Facebook and visits to our website. During the year we also managed to strengthen international ties, opening doors for further collaboration into the future. We now have links with similar organisations in Poland, UK, Australia and Denmark.

The high level of Missing Persons reports has continued unabated, with emotional pain and a feeling of helplessness for those left behind. Consequently, the need for our services is more acute for those directly impacted and more easily understood by those who weren't.

Family Support Group Meetings

In 2025, we continued our Family Support Meetings and our aim is to hold one each quarter. Whether you're a family member or a friend who lives with the loss of a missing loved one, you know only too well what a lonely experience that can be. Families of Missing Persons coming together in self support groups, can be a great source of solace and comfort to and for each other. Those who attend our support group meetings tell us that they feel less alone, recognised and supported by others who share a similar experience. While it can be challenging to come along to a support group meeting, particularly for the first time, those who do, invariably tell us that they're pleased to have attended.

DNA Profiling

One area which has seen a huge improvement and for which we must praise all involved, is the success of the DNA initiative. Gardai are continuing to take DNA samples from family members of Missing Persons and these have proved successful in identifying a number of previously unsolved cases.

Fundraising

In 2025 our fundraising efforts continued to stretch our resources, nonetheless we were privileged to be the recipients of a number of Donations – our thanks to all who contributed to our cause. Our main source of funding continues to be an annual grant from the Department of Justice Victim of Crime program, without this we would not be able to carry out our vital work with families of the Missing. We are extremely grateful to the Department of Justice for their continued support.

People at the Helpline

Our Organisation has a total of 9 volunteers, 8 of whom serve on our Board of Directors.

Lynn Dawson continues to be our Co-ordinator at the National Missing Persons Helpline. The position is part time and Lynn is based in our offices for 4 hours each morning, Monday – Friday. Outside of these hours calls are diverted to a mobile phone where they will be answered by one of our volunteers. I cannot find enough words to thank all of our volunteers who give so freely of their time in order to ensure that our service continues 365 days a year.

Support to families of Missing Persons

During 2025 our main interaction with the public has moved from phone to Social Media. During the year we had 2,155 interactions (phone calls, Social Media etc) with members of the public and relevant outside Agencies.

Facebook page for 2025

Monthly average views – 3.1 million +
Followers 100,000

Garda Press Releases during 2025

No. of Missing Persons Reports – 11,920
No. of individuals missing - 4,184
88 still untraced at year end

Finance

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the financial year ended 31 December 2025

Income

Grants received	30,000
Fundraising income -	0
Donations received	<u>10,778</u>
	40,778

Expenditure

Wages and salaries	18,792
Social welfare costs	1,677
Insurance	1,220
Computer secretarial costs	20
Printing, postage and stationery	630
Public awareness	1,940
Telephone	2,751
Computer costs	1,160
Room hire	2,025
Legal and professional	320
Bank charges	110
General expenses	53
Auditor's remuneration	1,445
Depreciation	<u>424</u>
	32,567
Net surplus	8,211

Signed: *D Browne*

Chairperson