

10PM Sighting Suggests Mother Almost Caught Kidnapper in the Act

Kate McCann may have missed the abduction of her daughter Madeleine by a matter of minutes, police revealed last night.

Detectives believe a suspect seen carrying a child 500 yards from the McCanns' holiday apartment was the kidnapper who had struck just moments before the mother went to check on her children.

Yesterday Scotland Yard appealed for the public's help in tracing the prime suspect – as it became clear Portuguese police may have been chasing the wrong man for six years.

The Mail published two e-fits of the suspect after it emerged they had been produced by private detectives working for the McCanns back in 2008 but were never issued.

Police reconstructed Madeleine's disappearance in a dramatic BBC Crimewatch appeal last night and admitted there has been a 'truly unprecedented' response.

Almost 500 people have contacted police with information with officers now sifting through more than 300 calls and 170 emails.

'We are extremely pleased with the response to the Crimewatch appeal, Detective Chief Inspector Andy Redwood said.

'The incident room is following up a number of enquiries, having received over 300 calls and over 170 emails with specific lines of enquiry.

'We will now take the time to follow up these lines of enquiry.

'Our appeal continues and later today I will be travelling to Holland, and tomorrow Germany, to continue the appeal for information.

'Madeleine remains at the heart of everything we do and I will continue to update the McCann family as more information is received by the incident room.'

Crucially, the Metropolitan Police has now ruled out a sighting of a man once considered a key suspect and previously seen near the McCann's apartment in Praia da Luz, Portugal, 45 minutes later.

Jane Tanner, a friend of Kate and Gerry, previously told officers she saw a dark-haired man carrying away a child wearing pink floral pyjamas at 9:15pm on May 3, 2007.

One of the so-called 'Tapas Seven', Miss Tanner had been dining with the McCanns in a nearby restaurant when their daughter went missing.

But detectives have now traced the mystery man, an innocent holidaymaker picking up his two-year old daughter from a night creche at the same Ocean Club complex.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2459722/Madeleine-McCann-10pm-sighting-suggests-mother-Kate-caught-kidnapper.html>