

MURDERED WOMAN’S MUM IN

PLEA FOR DAUGHTER’S BODY

EXCLUSIVE
BY NICOLA DONNELLY

THE mum of missing a missing woman told how she “nearly collapsed” when gardai told her the case has been upgraded to a murder inquiry.

Distraught Noleen Bieninda has also revealed how Elizabeth Clarke went to a Garda station to seek help a day before she vanished in 2013.

Noleen – who this week pleaded with those who know where the body is to tell gardai – told us she had been fighting for so long for the case to be upgraded to murder probe.

Mum-of-two Elizabeth was 24 when she was last seen in November 2013 in Navan, Co Meath.

Ms Clarke, who had lived in Portrane, Co Dublin and Bettystown, Co Meath, as well as at another address in Co Meath, was reported missing in January 2015.

She had been estranged from her family, including her mum Noleen, for a number of years.

Gardai are investigating if Elizabeth, who was a vulnerable person, was murdered around the time she was last seen in 2013.

Up until February this year, she was seen as a missing person.

However, gardai reclassified the investigation to one of murder as a result of their inquiries.

SHOCK

Noleen revealed her shock when gardai called to her home in north County Dublin in February to inform her of the development.

She exclusively told Irish Sunday Mirror: “I had been fighting for so long to have the investigation into Elizabeth to be one of murder so I nearly collapsed when they told me it is a murder investigation now.

“I told them at the start that I knew Elizabeth didn’t just disappear into thin air. I knew she didn’t just go missing.

“To be honest, I am disgusted they left it this long to upgrade it to a murder investigation as it has given those responsible time to get rid of any evidence.”

Before her disappearance, Elizabeth lived in Navan with her two children, her ex-partner Kevin Stanley, his father Larry and his late wife Susan.

Noleen directly appealed to the person or persons responsible for Elizabeth’s murder to come forward.

She said every morning she sits in her kitchen going back over everything “again and again” to try and piece together what happened to her daughter.

Noleen added: “I sit here every day stressed.

“I want to know where she is and who killed her. I am not getting anywhere.

“And I have got no justice for Elizabeth.

“She is my daughter and I want to know what happened to her and where she is.”

Noleen added she wants the gardai to step up the investigation to find Elizabeth and “not let her just be another missing persons statistic”.

She said it was her parents who

brought Elizabeth up, adding that she “did get to see her often”.

Noleen added: “Elizabeth was a good kid.

“She was full of beans and she would stand her ground”

She said when Elizabeth was 17 she moved to Slane in Co Meath where she lived for a few

years and then moved in with her then partner in Navan and had two children with him. Noleen recalled: “I

wasn’t kept up to date then on Elizabeth but all I know is she went to a garda station and asked for help.

“I was told she was told to come back the next day but then she disappeared.

“She didn’t make it back to the garda station and hasn’t been seen since.

“Nothing makes sense. I sit here each morning going back over it all again and again and I am not getting anywhere. Every-

thing has stopped and I have no justice for Elizabeth.

“I can’t get my head around it. I was told she left the house, went down the road and just vanished.

“How could she just disappear into thin air? Nothing about it all makes sense.

“I just want answers and want to know what happened to Elizabeth. And I am appealing to those who know where she is buried to come forward

to gardai, even anonymously. Ease your conscience. All I want is to bring Elizabeth home and give her a proper burial and lay her to rest.

“She is not at peace just lying there somewhere. Her spirit won’t pass on until she is given a proper burial.

“Just come forward with the answers.”

INVESTIGATION

Elizabeth’s disappearance in 2013 has been the subject of a sustained Garda investigation by the team based at Navan.

I’m disgusted it took so long to get murder probe...she did not disappear into thin air

Noleen ‘knew’ missing mum hadn’t just vanished



ANGUISH Mum Noleen



FUN-LOVING Elizabeth was ‘full of beans’ as a kid



PROBE Gardai searched a house in Navan in February



DRAWN A BLANK Nothing linked to inquiry was found

WITHOUT A TRACE Elizabeth Clarke was last seen in 2013

Extensive previous investigations, including house-to-house enquiries, land searches, canal and river trawls have taken place but the trail has gone cold.

In February, a house in Navan was searched for four days but nothing of evidential value was discovered.

While no leads were recovered, the results of the searches of the property in Navan are not being released for operational purposes and the investigation into

Elizabeth’s disappearance and murder is ongoing. Gardai said they have updated Ms Clarke’s family on any



PLEA Noleen talks to Irish Sunday Mirror’s Nicola

developments. Detectives renewed their appeal for information in relation to the disappearance and murder of Elizabeth.

In a statement a Garda spokesman said urged anyone with information, no matter how trivial it may seem, to come forward and speak up.

INFORMATION

The source added: “Do not assume that An Garda Síochana either knows that

information and/or that it has limited value.

“Let the investigation team make that assessment.

“Given the time frame of this investigation, gardai are reminding the public that if they have any information in relation

to the disappearance and murder of Elizabeth and for some reason held back on information they may have

“All I know is she went to gardai but was told to come back the next day. She hasn’t been seen since

had, to come forward now.

“An Garda Síochana wishes to reassure them that they will be treated sensitively,” the spokesperson added.

The investigation team can be contacted at Navan Garda Station at 046 9036100, through your local Garda station or the Garda Confidential telephone line 1800 666 111.