# Police use DNA door-to-door hunt for mother of three abandoned east London newborns



Police in east London are intensifying their efforts to locate the parents of three newborns who were abandoned shortly after birth, marking a distressing trend that has seen similar incidents over nearly a decade. The investigation into baby Elsa, found in January 2024, is particularly poignant as DNA analyses have confirmed her as the sibling of two previously found babies, Harry and Roman, discovered in 2017 and 2019 respectively. Each infant was left in remarkably similar circumstances, prompting an extensive and urgent police campaign.

Following Elsa's discovery in a Boots carrier bag on a footpath in Newham, officers were able to trace her lineage back to Harry and Roman through DNA tests, revealing all three share the same parents. Current police efforts are now centred around about 400 houses in the vicinity of where Elsa was found, as detectives employ door-to-door canvassing to collect DNA samples from local residents. This innovative approach seeks to connect familial DNA with the children's mother, who remains elusive despite repeated appeals for information. Officers have shared insights into their investigation, illustrating a comprehensive search strategy that includes reviewing CCTV footage, assessing the national DNA database for partial matches, and collaborating with the National Crime Agency.

The plight of these abandoned children has captivated local communities, with many expressing deep concern and offering prayers for the mother and her children. Pastor George Tikum, who leads the congregation at East Ham Baptist Church, suggested that the parents might be living illegally in the UK, explaining why they could feel compelled to abandon their infants. “I believe one person holds the key to this mystery,” he articulated, urging that one individual’s honesty could provide much-needed clarity for the children and their future.

Detective Inspector Jamie Humm, now overseeing the case, reflected on the previous assumptions that the mother might come forward voluntarily but has since revised that belief. He posits that the mother may be facing mental or physical health challenges that could prevent her from seeking help. With the opportunity for such a drastic act looming large, it becomes increasingly critical to address any possible ongoing risk to the mother or potential future children.

Despite a £20,000 reward offered by Crimestoppers for information, the investigation has not yielded the desired breakthroughs. Officers have diligently reviewed over 450 hours of CCTV footage, confirming the lack of sightings that would have provided leads in the investigation. The babies’ survival aligns with expert commentary suggesting that even in challenging conditions, mothers have shown remarkable resourcefulness, alluding to circumstances in war zones where abandonment becomes a last resort.

Elsa, Harry, and Roman have been fortunate to find temporary homes, with Harry and Roman having been adopted and Elsa presently thriving in foster care. Nevertheless, the emotional weight of their story hangs heavy in the community, leaving many to ponder the circumstances that led to these heartbreaking decisions. "Every day without answers is painful not just for the children, but for those who wish to help," remarked Det Supt Lewis Basford, acknowledging the complex and sensitive nature of the case.

As the investigation continues, the dedication of law enforcement, community leaders, and the public remains unwavering. The hope is that through collective efforts, the identities of the parents will surface and provide some level of resolution to this troubling narrative that has unfolded over eight years. The wellbeing of the children remains paramount, but so too is the pressing concern for their mother—her story woven into that of the three infants abandoned in the shadows of society.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4
2. Paragraph 5
3. Paragraphs 6, 7, 8
4. Paragraph 9
5. Paragraph 10
6. Paragraph 11
7. Paragraph 12

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cdxvzd729xeo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cdxvzd729xeo> - An article detailing the Metropolitan Police's efforts to identify the parents of three newborns abandoned in east London. The police are focusing on approximately 400 nearby houses and conducting DNA tests to find familial connections. Despite appeals, the parents remain unidentified. The article also provides background on the previous cases of Harry and Roman, who were found in similar circumstances in 2017 and 2019, respectively.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/baby-girl-found-london-related-two-other-abandoned-siblings-police-say-2024-06-04/> - A report by Reuters confirming that Baby Elsa, found abandoned in Newham, east London, in January 2024, is the third child abandoned by the same parents over the past seven years. DNA tests revealed she is the full sibling of Harry and Roman, who were found in similar circumstances in 2017 and 2019. The article also mentions that Harry and Roman have since been adopted, while Elsa is in foster care and doing well.
4. <https://www.itv.com/news/2024-06-04/baby-found-in-shopping-bag-has-two-siblings-who-were-also-abandoned-court-told> - ITV News reports that Baby Elsa, found abandoned in a shopping bag in Newham, east London, has two siblings who were also abandoned in similar circumstances in 2017 and 2019. DNA testing confirmed the sibling relationship. Despite extensive investigations, the parents remain unidentified, and the Metropolitan Police are continuing their search for information.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/london-metropolitan-police-abandoned-children-cctv-b1165223.html> - An article from The Standard detailing the Metropolitan Police's extensive efforts to identify the parents of three abandoned children in east London. The police have reviewed over 450 hours of CCTV footage and are working closely with Newham Council. Despite these efforts, the parents remain unidentified, and the investigation continues.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/reward-of-20-000-offered-to-identify-parents-of-three-siblings-abandoned-as-babies-over-8-years-13291152> - Sky News reports that a £20,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the identification of the parents of three siblings found abandoned in London over eight years. Despite reviewing over 450 hours of CCTV footage, the parents remain unidentified. The article also mentions that the mother is believed to have lived in the East Ham area over the past six years.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/london-metropolitan-police-dna-testing-police-cctv-b2564800.html> - The Independent reports that there have been no new significant leads in the search for the parents of three children found abandoned in London since 2017. Despite extensive investigations, including reviewing over 450 hours of CCTV footage and DNA testing, the parents remain unidentified. The article also mentions that the welfare of the children is paramount, and their privacy is being respected.