



WE HOPE OUR MEG IS STILL ALIVE

Emotional plea from family of missing woman

THE husband of missing Margaret 'Meg' Walsh was too upset to attend a press conference at which her daughter appealed for info on her mum's disappearance.

Mum-of-one Meg (35) has been missing since October 1 and is feared dead.

Her daughter Sasha Keating (17) — born during a previous relationship — and brother James Walsh (40) made impassioned appeals yesterday at the Woodlands Hotel in Ballinakill in Co Waterford where Meg

By **SEAN MURPHY**

was last seen alive.

Waterford Garda Supt Dave Sheahan initially said husband John O'Brien would attend but later said he wouldn't be there. Mr O'Brien has been staying with his mum in Tramore since Meg went missing.

Upset

Two sisters and an uncle of Mr O'Brien were there. Afterwards, his uncle told *The Star*: "John is very upset. It is a very tough time for him."

Supt Sheahan read a state-

ment from Mr O'Brien in which he said: "I appeal to anyone who knows the whereabouts of Meg to please let us know where she is... We would love to have Meg back with us."

His three relatives hugged and comforted Sasha as she left the press conference.

Sasha said she has no knowledge of her mother making complaints to gardai about a threat to her

safety, as had been alleged.

"I just want her back. I hope she is still alive," said the teenage schoolgirl.

Sasha lives with her dad in Fermoy in Co Cork close to her mum's hometown of Ballyhooley.

Meg's brother James said: "This situation is like a horror show!"

The Garda water unit and helicopter and 400 volunteers were yesterday involved in the search for Meg.



STAY: The home of John's mum

'There's a killer on the loose'

By **SEAN MURPHY**

THE suspected killing of young mother Margaret 'Meg' Walsh has terrified villagers who fear a killer is on the loose.

Meg is feared dead since vanishing from Ballinakill in Co Waterford on October 1.

Her mysterious disappearance and suspected murder has terrified the picture postcard village. Local volunteers continue the search for Meg.

Local resident, former GAA president Patrick Buggy, said people are very worried.

He added: "Gardai do not have a body, but people know it is very serious. It looks grim."

Awful

Local woman Maureen Brett said: "People are afraid it could happen again. It is so difficult because it has happened on our doorstep. It's awful."

Yesterday, as searchers returned to the Woodlands Hotel — the operations base for the hunt — a female volunteer broke down in tears and had to be taken away and comforted.

"People are feeling the strain. It's not



HUNT: The search for clues, Meg's home (above) and a Garda sniffer dog which has been drafted in as part of the probe (left)