

Police release last image of Christchurch woman Renee Duckmanton

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Security footage reveals one of the last moments that homicide victim Renee Duckmanton was seen alive.

Police believe the young sex worker arrived in Christchurch's red light district, near the intersection of Manchester and Peterborough streets, shortly after 8.30pm on Saturday, May 14.

The 22-year-old was wearing sneakers, a white top and a dark-coloured jacket.

About 9pm, she walked across Manchester St and into Peterborough St, Detective Inspector Darryl Sweeney said on Wednesday.

It is understood police obtained the security footage from the St Lukes Close apartments at the corner of Manchester and Peterborough streets.

They had been going door to door with the image.

Residents said investigators had asked whether they saw the 22-year-old or any suspicious vehicles that night.

Duckmanton's badly burnt body was found at the scene of a scrub fire on Main Rakaia Rd, near State Highway 1, just north of Rakaia, about 7.40pm on May 15.

She was farewelled at a funeral service at Bell, Lamb and Trotter on Ferry Rd on Monday.

Police previously said they believed Duckmanton's work in the sex industry might have been a factor in her death.

Scene examinations at two properties – the home where Duckmanton lived on Bowenvale Ave, Cashmere, and her mother's home on Kowhai Tce, St Martins – have been completed. Police would not say if they had found anything of note.

Sweeney said police were yet to identify a light-coloured car seen on Main Rakaia Rd, shortly before Duckmanton's body was found.

He would not speculate about whether she had been killed elsewhere.

Asked whether there was the potential for any gang involvement, Sweeney said: "There are a wide range of people that use the services of the girls on Manchester St."

A team of about 30 investigators continued to work on the case to "ensure those responsible are held to account".

"It's a homicide that we are actively working on and making good progress."

Sweeney appealed for sightings of Duckmanton in the area of Manchester and Peterborough streets on May 14.

"Police do appreciate the sensitivity of the work on Manchester Street. Accordingly, detectives are able to meet or communicate with those in the area by any arrangement that suits."

Duckmanton is the fourth sex worker killed in Christchurch in recent years.

Anna Reed, from the New Zealand Prostitutes Collective, said everyone working in the industry was nervous.

"Everyone knows there is someone out there who hasn't been caught yet. There are a lot of police working on the case and we have a lot of faith in that."

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call police on 03 363 7400 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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