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Family accused as gran vanishes

By ROBERT McAULAY
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THE family of a missing Scots gran have slammed Mexican cops who suggested THEY murdered her for life insurance money.

But Julia Howard, 77 — who vanished just 12 hours into a dream holiday to Cancun — has **NO** policy they could cash in.

Last night her furious son Ron Harvey, 53, said: “One of the first questions Federal Police asked was, ‘did my mother have any life insurance and who would be the beneficiary?’ It’s absolute garbage.

“My mum did not have a single penny of life insurance — so if there was any motive it would be to inherit my mother’s debt.” Last month we told how the Edinburgh OAP was with daughter Julia Brock, 50, son Henry Harvey, 56, and his wife Glynnis at Cancun’s Moon Palace resort on June 16.

She mysteriously disappeared on a 35-yard walk back to her room to pick up a sun hat. Ron added: “The first comment the police made was, ‘it’s the family’s responsibility to look after her’.

“They also said my family carried on with their holiday regardless. As you can imagine, my brother was very angry.”

After a three-week search for Julia in Mexico, her devastated son Henry finally decided to return home last week.

He said: “I felt terrible. It was probably the hardest decision I have had to make in my life. But there was nothing else I could do.

“I almost felt guilty still staying at a five-star complex. It was very upsetting. This first week back has been a nightmare. The Foreign office are keeping us up to date with any developments.”

Julia is the **THIRD** tourist in the area to vanish in mysterious circumstances. In April, American Ron Scheepstra, 49, disappeared from nearby Xcalak while on a fishing trip — and his family claimed Mexican cops used his hire car for ten days after he disappeared.

In 2007, Israeli tourist Dana Rishpy, 25, also vanished while travelling near Cancun.

The Foreign Office warns Brits in Mexico to be wary of kidnappings in holiday areas and to be alert when dealing with “real or purported policemen”.



Missing . . . gran Julia Howard

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