

Read the text about an Irish millionaire, who pretended to have been kidnapped.

- First decide whether the statements (1–8) are true (T) or false (F) and put a cross (☒) in the correct box.
- Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision.
- Write the first four words of this sentence in the space provided.
- There may be more than one correct answer; write down only one.
- The first one (0) has been done for you.



Missing Millionaire a Hoax

by Hannah Osborne

Tycoon found wandering dazed in road in County Leitrim, claiming to have been thrown out of van by kidnappers has since admitted to faking the entire ordeal.

The dishevelled and emaciated figure, who was discovered standing in the middle of a road at the end of January this year, did not look like a millionaire. Barefoot, with long hair and an unkempt beard, the man looked more like a vagrant than the missing property tycoon he was. When Catherine Vallely stopped her car after spotting him, she had initially thought that the scrawny figure ahead of her was a traffic cone. But it turned out to be Kevin McGeever, 68, who had not been heard from since June last year, when he was reported missing in County Galway by his partner, Siobhan O'Callaghan.

When Vallely and her partner Peter Rehill picked him up on the Leitrim-Cavan border, he had a one-word insult scrawled across his forehead. He told them that three men had thrown him out of a van. They took the 68-year-old to the local Garda Síochána*, where he explained that he was abducted by three masked and armed men from his mansion in rural Galway back in May.

McGeever told officers that the kidnappers had immediately demanded a ransom for his safe release but he did not know whether it had been paid. The property developer said he could not remember what had happened to him in the meantime.

When he left the police station, he was given a mobile phone and warned to keep it with him at all times. He was then admitted straight to hospital suffering from malnutrition. After his release from hospital, the gardai** tried to establish whether he had been held across the border in Northern Ireland before he was dumped in County Leitrim.

He is currently listed in legal proceedings before the high court in a case being taken against KMM Properties, which began in 2009.

Yet there is a surprising twist to this tale: McGeever has recently admitted he was not kidnapped by armed men and held captive in a shipping container for eight months. He has told police that he spent the time in a remote cottage in the west of Ireland and purposefully lost weight to make his story more believable. However, last week police arrested McGeever for wasting police time and making false allegations. He eventually admitted his lies before being released from police custody.

The Independent says McGeever told the police he was under a great amount of financial pressure so he came up with the kidnapping plan. He thought investors would leave him alone for fear of being implicated in his abduction.

In May 2012 McGeever put his car into storage and hired two people to drive him to his remote hideaway. He grew his beard and fingernails and ate sparsely to lose weight. After eight months, McGeever became bored and was worried about his seriously ill girlfriend, Siobhan O'Callaghan's condition. He prepared to return by writing "thief" on his forehead in permanent ink and was then driven to Ballinamore. He wandered the country road until he was picked up by some passing motorists. Police say a file is now being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

* the Irish police

** policemen

	Statements
0	McGeever's girlfriend informed the police of his disappearance.
1	Passers-by delivered McGeever to the police.
2	McGeever told the police that he had forgotten details of his imprisonment.
3	McGeever received medical attention to remove the letters on his head.
4	McGeever deliberately made himself thinner.
5	McGeever got into trouble for giving fake information.
6	McGeever's reason for disappearing was his partner's illness.
7	McGeever organised transport to his secret location.
8	The kidnappers marked out a word on his head.

	T	F	First four words
0	X		But it turned out
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			