

Police Report August 2023

We received a total of 334 calls this month and of these calls 115 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

August 2023 – Total 115

Offence Group	Q	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		54
Arson and Criminal Damage		15
Public Order Offences		15
Theft		12
Burglary		6
Sexual Offences		4
Drug Offences		2
Possession of Weapons		2
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		1
Robbery		1
Vehicle Offences		1

August 2022 – Total 123

Offence Group	Q	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		58
Arson and Criminal Damage		24
Public Order Offences		14
Theft		7
Vehicle Offences		5
Sexual Offences		4
Drug Offences		2
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		2
Burglary		1
Possession of Weapons		1
Robbery		1

As can be seen, there has been an overall reduction on the same period last year with a comparatively similar spread of offence types. This confirms there hasn't been a spike in any particular area of crime and is in line with typical trends for the time of year.

As we near the end of the summer holidays, the team has had another busy month conducting high visibility patrols, investigating crimes and supporting youth diversionary activities and community events in the local area. In particular, the Wacky Wednesdays in Wellington Park have allowed us to engage with lots of families and we were fortunate enough to have the police horses join us which is always a welcome addition for everyone.

I am aware of some social media posts that were circulating locally about a particular young person reported to be carrying a knife and showing it to others in open spaces. We take all forms of knife crime extremely seriously and will always act swiftly in response to these reports. The youth in question has been the subject of multiple stop searches by the team at various times of day and has been referred to our Violence Reduction Unit where they will receive targeted education and parental support around the dangers of knife crime. We work closely with retailers to ensure knife sales and displays are in accordance with the latest legislation and to prevent easy access for theft. I would urge parents to be mindful of where knives are stored within the home and to keep a regular audit to detect if one should go missing. The surrender bin is at the front of the police station and is available 24/7 for depositing any form of bladed article.

The absconder from Wellesley Hospital earlier this month drew national media attention as part of the campaign to locate the individual. The neighbourhood team was on patrol at the time of the incident and formed part of the initial search party which included police dogs and the helicopter. The individual was detained the following morning outside of the local area and following this incident, fears and concerns were raised by the local community. Our team works very closely with Wellesley Hospital and I hold regular police liaison meetings with senior managers. There is also a beat surgery hosted by PCSO Simon Bramley for patients and staff. The circumstances surrounding this absconding have been fully investigated by our CID teams and appropriate safeguarding completed. I have met with the senior management team to present local concerns both from the public and police about this incident and I have received assurances that robust measures are in place to prevent any reoccurrence of this type. We will continue to work in partnership with the hospital to ensure this remains a unique and isolated event.

Taunton has seen a recent rise in moped thefts and on one occasion this spread across to Wellington where one was stolen overnight from outside the victim's home. I am pleased to report that we were able to locate this moped and return it to its owner within a couple of hours of them discovering it missing for which they were extremely grateful. It is always

worth investing in a high-quality lock and, where possible, securing mopeds and motorbikes to fixed anchor points or storing them out of sight in rear gardens. We will continue our late night patrols and advise owners where we identify vulnerable vehicles susceptible to theft.

As the autumn approaches, we are already making preparations for the policing operation of Wellington Carnival which promises to be another proud event for the town. We look forward to seeing you all there!

If anyone has any questions or enquiries they wish to make with the team, the enquiry office at Wellington Police Station is open from 10am – 2pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We can be contacted via our social media accounts, the Avon & Somerset Police website or by calling 101. Alternatively, feel free to stop any one of us whilst we're out on patrol and we'll always be happy to speak with you.

Jon O'Connor

Neighbourhood Sergeant for Wellington