

Police Report December 2023

We received a total of 246 calls this month and of these calls 77 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

December 2023 – Total 77

Offence Group	↓≡	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		29
Theft		11
Arson and Criminal Damage		10
Public Order Offences		8
Sexual Offences		7
Vehicle Offences		6
Burglary		4
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		2

December 2022 – Total 86

Offence Group	↓≡	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		41
Public Order Offences		13
Arson and Criminal Damage		10
Sexual Offences		9
Theft		4
Vehicle Offences		3
Burglary		1
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		1

Despite this being one of the busiest months of the year for us, I'm pleased to report another reduction in crime figures compared with the same period last year. That said, there has been a rise in theft offences on account of a spate of attempts to steal from vehicles, specifically works vans on one night in mid-December. Enquiries are ongoing to identify a

suspect and I urge van owners to ensure their vehicles are locked and valuable tools removed from within wherever possible.

Wellington Town Centre remained a safe evening destination in the lead up to Christmas and we saw a peaceful party season with a combination of our patrols and those of the Street Pastors supporting us. Not only is this a deterrent for crime and disorder, but an additional safeguard to ensure people feel secure on their way home, especially with our drive to combat violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Over the Christmas period we were unfortunately exposed to the harsh realities of the cost of living crisis and also the deterioration this time of year can have on people's mental health, leading to a detrimental impact on their children's wellbeing. I appreciate all services are limited in this current climate, however there is support available across a number of areas and any advice or assistance might prevent things escalating to crisis point where the police are forced to intervene. If you are aware of anybody struggling to cope then please encourage them to seek support or make a referral on their behalf. It could make all the difference.

By way of an end of year summary for 2023, we have completed the following in Wellington:

97 school engagements (equates to roughly 3 per week)

Attended 3,455 incidents (almost 9.5 per day)

Investigated 1,207 crimes (almost 3.5 per day)

As we move into the New Year we are already forward-planning our calendar to maximise our visibility and engagement opportunities. Our aim is to attend as many events around the town as possible so if you have anything planned and would like us to attend and support then please get in touch.

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 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