

## Police Report January 2024

We received a total of 257 calls this month and of these calls 94 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

### January 2024 – Total 94

Offence Group	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	53
Public Order Offences	9
Theft	9
Arson and Criminal Damage	8
Sexual Offences	7
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	2
Vehicle Offences	2
Drug Offences	1
Fraud	1

### January 2023 – Total 109

Offence Group	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	56
Theft	12
Arson and Criminal Damage	11
Public Order Offences	8
Vehicle Offences	6
Sexual Offences	5
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	4
Burglary	3
Robbery	2
Drug Offences	1

This month's figures indicate yet another reduction on the same period last year, working out to 14% fewer crimes than in January 2023. There are reductions across the board in

almost every offence type and I am pleased to report that there were no recorded burglary or robbery offences this month.

In the middle of January was Neighbourhood Policing Week which is a national initiative to promote and celebrate neighbourhood policing across the country. I took this as an opportunity to highlight some of the excellent community policing that happens right here and you may have noticed that a number of social media posts were centred around local activity by the Wellington team. We are often overshadowed by Taunton since the merger of the local Facebook pages and so I invited a member of the Avon & Somerset social media department to spend a day filming on patrol with the team to showcase some of our daily business and attempts to reduce crime in the local area.

One of our focusses this month was on shop theft, particularly those smaller independent retailers who are most affected by this crime type and do not have the financial backing of the larger chain stores. The team conducted personal visits of over 60 retailers across Wellington offering crime prevention advice and new QR codes which streamline the reporting process and make sending CCTV evidence across far more efficient. This has traditionally been a blocker for many victims and can lead to a reluctance in reporting matters. A recent example of where this work is key, was the back-to-back targeting of Ruxtons on consecutive days. Unfortunately, these occurred when our team was off duty but has been picked up by our desktop investigators who are progressing both incidents by securing the CCTV evidence and have already identified potential suspects.

It has been announced this week in the news that despite a rise in council tax for policing, there will be a reduction of 80 PCSO posts across Avon & Somerset Constabulary. What this means in reality is that there will be a pause in recruitment of new PCSOs for the next 12 months and the savings will come from natural wastage such as retirement or resignation. For Wellington, this means the team will remain unchanged and there will be no reduction in the number of PCSOs we currently have available for patrol.

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