

Police Report September 2023

We received a total of 270 calls this month and of these calls 81 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

September 2023 – Total 81

Offence Group	Q	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		35
Theft		16
Public Order Offences		10
Arson and Criminal Damage		6
Sexual Offences		5
Vehicle Offences		3
Burglary		1
Drug Offences		1
Fraud		1

September 2022 – Total 70

Offence Group	Q	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		24
Public Order Offences		18
Theft		6
Sexual Offences		5
Vehicle Offences		4
Arson and Criminal Damage		3
Possession of Weapons		3
Burglary		2
Drug Offences		1
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		1
Robbery		1

As much as this is a slight rise on the same period last year, this is a significant reduction from last month and is testament to the intervention work that has been carried out with some of our more problematic young offenders. Once again, there is no stand-out spike with

any particular offence type and the pattern of offences is broadly similar to this time last year.

With the schools returning it has given the team a chance to concentrate on some long-term problem solving and some wider crime issues. The majority of our recent demand is stemming from neighbour disputes which culminates in reports of assaults or threatening behaviour. This is reflected in the crime figures where “violence against the person” and “public order offences” consistently sit at the top. We’re keen to prevent this type of escalation and so will be working closer with our partners at Somerset Council and other social housing providers to intervene at an earlier stage and make full use of tools and powers available to all of us. The One Team process is key to this where frontline professionals from various agencies meet once a week to discuss local demand and issues.

There has been a spate of non-dwelling burglaries in some of the more rural locations and outlying villages of Bridgwater and Taunton which thankfully has not encroached as close as Wellington. A male has been arrested and charged with one of these offences so it is hoped there will now be a notable decline in this crime type. It is worth reminding people though of the importance of security marking high value tools and items of plant machinery. Our Rural Affairs Unit is taking a close look at these offences and offering crime prevention tips and visits to farms and isolated locations.

In the last week we welcomed a new addition to our team, PC Mark Seward who joins us from Taunton patrol where he was a response and Taser officer. Mark brings experience and skills that will serve us well in Wellington and he is currently covering both the town and rural beats. With this good news comes sad news that we will be saying goodbye to PCSO Louise Fyne who will be leaving us at the beginning of October after 15 years’ service. Lou has worked tirelessly for the communities of Wiveliscombe, Milverton and Wellington and been at the forefront of securing funding for multiple youth engagement activities. The messages of appreciation have been flooding in and she will be sorely missed. We wish her well in her next venture.

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