

Police Report March 2024

We received a total of 305 calls this month and of these calls 85 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

March 2024 – Total 85

Offence Group	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	51
Public Order Offences	13
Arson and Criminal Damage	7
Theft	6
Burglary	3
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	2
Vehicle Offences	2
Robbery	1

March 2023 – Total 85

Offence Group	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	46
Theft	13
Arson and Criminal Damage	7
Public Order Offences	6
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	3
Sexual Offences	3
Burglary	2
Vehicle Offences	2
Drug Offences	1
Robbery	1

I was expecting there to be a slight rise in figures compared with last year due to the Easter Holidays falling within March rather than April this time. For it to remain exactly level can therefore still be taken as a positive.

Of most note were the incidents over the Easter weekend amongst which we saw a callous overnight burglary at the Baptist Church. Significant damage was caused with very little gain making this more akin to a speculative search with no prior knowledge rather than a targeted attack with a specific intention. We recovered various samples of forensic evidence the following morning and my team remains in contact with Reverend Griffiths, keeping him updated on the progress of the investigation. It was delightful to hear that members of the church rallied round the following day and the damage has already been repaired.

Brocks in Rockwell Green suffered a similar attack the following night where tobacco and vape products were stolen. A male and female were arrested on suspicion of this burglary and the male remains on bail pending further enquiries.

The unauthorised encampment at the sports centre was vacated on Easter Monday following notice being served by Somerset Council. In these instances, it is usual for the landowner, supported by the police, to take the lead in the eviction process which was unfortunately hindered by the extended holiday weekend. For police powers to be invoked there needs to be evidence of significant damage, disruption or distress which carries a higher threshold and was not deemed proportionate in these circumstances.

There has been an increase in reports of a male in a motorised wheelchair crashing into people and displaying repeated nuisance behaviour. We are aware of this male and we are working with Adult Social Care to have his current accommodation and level of support package re-assessed to prevent further incidents of this nature.

I note that CCTV provision is due to be discussed later in the agenda and I just want to reinforce the invaluable importance to the police of having CCTV coverage within the town centre that is monitored 24/7. The benefits in the prevention and detection of crime are far too great to list here, but this is a key tool in our everyday work. In addition, I am aware that there may be an opportunity for upgrading the quality of footage provided by these cameras and again this carries the full support of my team and the wider policing departments in the area. Evidence provided by CCTV is only as strong as the quality of the footage itself and so any improvements in this regard will serve to provide us with greater opportunities for suspect identification and the prosecution of offences.

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