

Police Report April 2024

We received a total of 262 calls this month and of these calls 105 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

April 2024 – Total 105

| Offence Group | ↓≡ Crime Count |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Violence Against The Person | 56 |
| Arson and Criminal Damage | 14 |
| Public Order Offences | 13 |
| Theft | 12 |
| Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society | 4 |
| Burglary | 2 |
| Robbery | 2 |
| Fraud | 1 |
| Vehicle Offences | 1 |

April 2023 – Total 97

| Offence Group | ↓≡ Crime Count |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Violence Against The Person | 43 |
| Theft | 17 |
| Arson and Criminal Damage | 11 |
| Public Order Offences | 9 |
| Vehicle Offences | 6 |
| Burglary | 4 |
| Sexual Offences | 2 |
| Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society | 1 |
| Possession of Weapons | 1 |
| Robbery | 1 |

The slight rise on the same period last year can be seen with the notable increase in violence against the person offences this month. This offence group covers assaults but also includes offences of malicious communications such as threatening and insulting words sent via electronic means. This month we've seen an increase in bullying behaviour by young people against their peers over platforms such as Snapchat and Whatsapp. These matters have been subsequently reported to the police which accounts for the rise in this offence type. We continue to work with the local schools to ensure we have a robust and combined stance on cyber bullying, dealing with offenders through enforcement and education as well as offering online safety advice to victims.

The other significant rise this month was criminal damage which can be accounted for by the spree of damaged car wing mirrors in Priory at the beginning of April. These all occurred within the same incident and are being attributed to the same suspect who is alleged to have indiscriminately kicked a number of wing mirrors. That person was arrested on the night a short distance away for that and other offences and remains on conditional bail whilst the investigation continues.

Unfortunately, Brocks convenience store was targeted for another burglary in the early hours of Sunday with the same MO of forcing the front door and stealing large quantities of tobacco products. A registration number of the getaway car was passed to us with it traced, pulled over and the two occupants arrested within 30 minutes of the incident. I'm pleased to report that both suspects have been subsequently charged with this and other offences and were remanded in police custody to appear in court the following day.

I've already started horizon scanning for the school holidays and in anticipation of the heightened summer demand we are planning to support a number of youth diversionary activities. I have also secured confirmation of two additional PCs who will be joining the team in late June to bolster our numbers and visibility.

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