

Police Report July 2024

We received a total of 337 calls this month and of these calls 89 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison, I've included the same period last year:

July 2024 – Total 89

Offence Group	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	46
Theft	15
Arson and Criminal Damage	9
Public Order Offences	8
Sexual Offences	5
Burglary	2
Drug Offences	1

July 2023 – Total 104

Offence Group	Q	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		52
Arson and Criminal Damage		15
Public Order Offences		11
Theft		11
Vehicle Offences		5
Sexual Offences		4
Burglary		2
Robbery		2
Drug Offences		1
Possession of Weapons		1

A 14% reduction in overall crime against the same month last year as well as reductions across most crime types. I've explored the slight increase in theft offences this month and this is down to some shoplifting incidents in the last fortnight, coinciding with the beginning of the summer holidays. We will be making full use of our out-of-court youth disposal options and anti-social behaviour tools to curtail these offences and divert those responsible away from further offending.

July has been a busy month for the team juggling competing demands of abstractions and leave during this summer period, coupled with the inevitable seasonal rise in calls to the police. Calls will continue to be triaged and prioritised in the usual way according to an objective assessment of threat, harm and risk but it may mean that some of the more routine matters may take a little longer to be attended. It was only last week I had to explain to a caller that the police would not be attending purely because their neighbour was having a barbeque and some smoke was going through their open windows!

Linking in with this, Avon and Somerset Police has recently launched the first phase of the national initiative 'Right Care, Right Person'. This has been successfully implemented in other forces and changes how the police respond to calls about mental health and wellbeing, making sure the right professionals are involved. The approach involves collaboration between police and healthcare services to handle concern for safety calls more effectively. Call handlers will assess if a police response is necessary or if a healthcare professional is better suited to help. This will ensure that individuals get the specialised support they need and will help free up police officers for more crime-related duties.

I'm aware of the recent wildlife concerns surrounding fishing activity and dog walking at the Basins. I agree that this does not sit with any one agency to address or remedy and that we must all work together to promote safe and responsible use of the area, challenging inappropriate actions and behaviour wherever we can. I will ensure that my team are patrolling to deal positively with any criminal or anti-social behaviour but to also engage with the frequent users of the Basins to encourage a safe and pleasant space for all.

On Wednesday last week, my team and I executed a Misuse of Drugs Act warrant at an address in Wellington. During the search we seized cash estimated in the region of £50,000 which we suspect to be the proceeds of crime. In addition, we seized significant quantities of suspected class B drugs along with over 1,000 x 50g tobacco pouches which are being reviewed by Trading Standards. One person was arrested from the address and has been released under investigation pending further enquiries.

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