

Police Report August 2024

We received a total of 338 calls this month and of these calls 111 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

August 2024 -Total 111

Offence Group	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	62
Public Order Offences	13
Arson and Criminal Damage	12
Theft	9
Drug Offences	4
Burglary	3
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	2
Vehicle Offences	2
Possession of Weapons	1
Robbery	1

August 2023 – Total 115

Offence Group	Q	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person		54
Arson and Criminal Damage		15
Public Order Offences		15
Theft		12
Burglary		6
Sexual Offences		4
Drug Offences		2
Possession of Weapons		2
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		1
Robbery		1
Vehicle Offences		1

A slight reduction on the previous year's numbers and reductions across nearly all crime types. This is also a continuation of 2023's reduction from 2022 where there were 123 crimes recorded. The only increase is for drug offences and these are self-generated reports as a result of our own proactive work. We actually received a greater number of calls this month than last year which again demonstrates how Police demand and calls for service have increased, yet the nature of this demand is actually less crime related.

Following on from the drugs warrant at the end of July, the team recently responded to further community intelligence about drugs. In this instance reports suggested a strong smell of cannabis and a potential grow site coming from a house in Sylvan Road. On attendance we discovered that house was indeed being used for growing cannabis and one male has been arrested and charged with a production offence. He has been remanded into custody and is due to appear at Taunton Crown Court on the 20th of September.

I am hoping our swift response to this intelligence will encourage others to continue supplying information of this nature so that we can continue tackling drug producers and suppliers.

I noticed there had been some comments on social media in response to the report of a male in a balaclava approaching members of the public. Within those comments were reference to a male in a balaclava who had been riding a moped through the town centre without a helmet or number plate. I can confirm that we seized this moped the same day and pending some further enquiries the registered keeper of that moped is due to be prosecuted for a number of motoring offences. Balaclavas are being worn more and more commonly as a means of disguising identity and sadly due to the differences in age and description it is unlikely this is the same male as the one reported approaching people who we are still proactively seeking.

You may have seen that we are trialling a hybrid motorcycle in Wellington to provide feedback to our fleet managers and the manufacturers themselves about its feasibility as a patrol vehicle. I just want to reiterate that this has been loaned to us free of charge from the manufacturer and not something that has been purchased by the police. This will never replace good old-fashioned foot and cycle patrol, but I offered to be part of the trial as it is a talking point and an opportunity to further engage with people whilst on patrol. I know a large number of people have already seen it out and about and even the Mayor has had a sit on it!

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