

Police Report November 2024

We received a total of 269 calls this month and of these calls 86 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

November 2024 – Total 86

Offence Group	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	34
Theft	10
Arson and Criminal Damage	9
Public Order Offences	9
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	6
Sexual Offences	6
Burglary	5
Vehicle Offences	3
Robbery	1

November 2023 – Total 79

Offence Group	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	35
Public Order Offences	9
Theft	9
Arson and Criminal Damage	8
Sexual Offences	7
Vehicle Offences	4
Burglary	3
Possession of Weapons	1

A slight rise in crime figures on this time last year but no uncharacteristic spikes in any specific crime type. One particular young person is responsible for 8 crimes alone this month and we are working with the family, our ASB team and partner agencies to ensure their behaviour is curtailed with the appropriate sanctions and safeguarding measures.

In mid-November we were pleased to welcome colleagues from our Roads Policing Team who came to Wellington as part of Operation Harmony. This operation is the commitment from the Chief Constable and PCC to provide communities with proactive weeks of action across the year. This work is in addition to daily policing and bolsters existing resources. Members of my team joined specialist traffic officers in conducting targeted patrols to tackle dangerous/illegal driving as well as criminals using the road network. This is particularly prevalent in rural areas where criminals will travel large distances to commit crime in isolated locations. Across the force the operation resulted in 14 arrests for various offences and 23 uninsured drivers stopped. One of the arrests was following a short pursuit and foot chase through the centre of Wellington where a driver had failed to stop in a bid to evade officers.

As we move into the build-up to Christmas, the footfall within the town centre will increase and sadly this also applies to those who prefer not to pay for their Christmas shopping. We are working with local retailers to bolster their security measures, improve the crime reporting process and encourage an information-sharing platform between shops. There will be an increased police presence within the town centre both uniformed and covert and we will work to ensure the smaller businesses in particular feel supported in preventing and deterring potential thieves. It is always preferable to deter someone before they can even enter your store or to challenge them at the first opportunity and escort them out before items have a chance to be concealed. It is a judgment call for individuals as to how confident they feel in confronting determined or violent thieves, but we would always advise against placing yourself at risk of threatening behaviour or injury to try and recover goods.

This month we have also taken part in Operation Sceptre which is a national week of action tackling knife crime. Whilst this is nowhere near an issue in Wellington as some other urban areas, we still want to remain ahead of the curve by ensuring our local young people are fully educated on the dangers of knife crime and carrying weapons. We routinely compliance test stores selling knives and conduct sweeps of open spaces. The knife surrender bin is also available outside the police station where any weapons found or surrendered can be deposited.

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 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