

Police Report December 2024

We received a total of 267 calls this month and of these calls 79 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

December 2024 – Total 79

Offence Group	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	50
Public Order Offences	11
Theft	10
Burglary	4
Arson and Criminal Damage	2
Sexual Offences	1
Vehicle Offences	1

December 2023 – Total 77

Offence Group	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	29
Theft	11
Arson and Criminal Damage	10
Public Order Offences	8
Sexual Offences	7
Vehicle Offences	6
Burglary	4
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	2

As much as the crime totals are broadly similar, the spike in violence against the person offences is likely attributed to the school holidays where we have seen rises in low-level threats and harassing behaviour being reported between teenagers over social media once again. We will endeavour to engage with the schools once they return so that we can work collaboratively to tackle these disputes positively and safeguard those affected.

I am pleased to report that it has been a relatively peaceful period in the run up to and across the festive period with a combination of night-time economy patrols in the town centre and Operation Limit drink drive checks at strategic points. These act as a timely reminder of the dangers of drink/drug driving both for the driver and for other road users they may encounter.

In mid-December, a household suffered a burglary specifically to obtain keys to steal the car parked outside. Whilst this is a very rare occurrence in Wellington, the car was recovered several days later outside of our force area which demonstrates that organised criminals are prepared to travel further afield to commit this type of offence. With the improvements in car security systems, thieves often need to be in physical possession of the keys or have access to sophisticated devices that either block or mimic the radar messages between the key and the car. For that reason, I would strongly urge anyone to refrain from leaving vehicle keys near the front door and if you have “keyless” entry to consider making use of a Faraday bag to target harden your keys from any radar devices. This also applies to remote control gates and garages which can be similarly intercepted using one of these devices.

Moving into the New Year we will continue with our patrols and increased support to local businesses around retail theft now that we have an established information sharing platform. This serves to provide live-time updates between businesses and encourages early intervention to deter would-be thieves before they can even enter the store.

As a round-up for 2024, we have dealt with a total of 3,691 incidents which amounts to roughly 10 calls for service a day as well as conducting over 1,000 criminal investigations. In addition, and something that can't necessarily be measured are the hours of tireless preventative patrols, community engagement, reassurance visits and the safeguarding work we conduct on behalf of other agencies. We have relished working with all of our partners and communities this past year and we wish everyone in Wellington a safe and peaceful 2025.

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