

Police Report January 2025

We received a total of 295 calls this month and of these calls 91 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

January 2025 – Total 91

Offence Group	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	53
Theft	12
Sexual Offences	11
Arson and Criminal Damage	6
Vehicle Offences	3
Burglary	2
Public Order Offences	2
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	1
Possession of Weapons	1

January 2024 – Total 94

Offence Group	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	53
Public Order Offences	9
Theft	9
Arson and Criminal Damage	8
Sexual Offences	7
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	2
Vehicle Offences	2
Drug Offences	1
Fraud	1

There have been no exceptional spikes in any crime type compared to this period last year. A number of neighbour disputes continue to drive our “violence against the person” offences which is a broad offence type encompassing not only assaults, but things such as malicious communications (online or via text/telephone) and harassment. We are working hard with both the local authority and social housing providers to curtail these incidents with a

combination of ASB legislation and tenancy enforcement powers. We encourage residents to report issues to housing as a first port of call as they are often the more appropriate agency to deal with low-level matters that may not necessarily be criminal. By collating these reports, housing can then take action against tenants before tensions escalate and before retaliative behaviour results in criminal offences.

I was saddened to receive reports of damage to the toilet block in Wellington Park and more recently the uprooting of numerous newly-planted trees in the play area off Gay Close. Despite arguments from some who question the positioning of these trees, this type of mindless vandalism cannot be excused and is unacceptable. My team continues to investigate these matters and enquiries are ongoing.

I recently cited in one of my reports a young person who was responsible for 8 offences in a single month late last year. That individual is now subject to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) with a list of agreed conditions and, following several strategy meetings with our partners, we successfully pushed for the allocation of a social worker for further family support. I am pleased to report that this young person has not been linked to a single incident this month and we will build on this progress to ensure this continues going into the spring.

This is just one example of the ongoing early intervention work we are doing with young people to divert them from criminality and avoid them entering the criminal justice system. We are working closely with Court Fields School where a Youth Independent Advisory Group has recently been established. This will work similarly to the Somerset West IAG for adults where the panel members represent the community, provide advice and feedback and, where necessary, act as critical friends of the police. This is the first of its kind in Somerset of which I am very proud and I hope that this will serve to forge better relations between the police and young people.

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 also 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