

## Police Report January 2026

We received a total of 292 calls this month and of these calls 85 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

January 2026 – Total 85

Offence Group	Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	55
Theft	8
Arson and Criminal Damage	7
Public Order Offences	6
Sexual Offences	5
Vehicle Offences	4

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 is often a slower month following the excesses of the Christmas period and this year was no exception as the crime figures suggest. I have no doubt the inclement weather has also played its part in reducing opportunities to offend. There have been no spikes in any crime type and no extraordinary trends of note.

With this in mind, we have had a chance to be more proactive in our approach and get ahead of the game before moving into the busier parts of the year. A lot of safeguarding referrals and intervention work has been taking place with young people to try and reduce their likelihood of offending. Issues like school bullying and threats from peers have previously resulted in calls to the police where matters have gone unchecked and then later escalated into assaults and other violent behaviour. By intervening early and working with schools, we hope to stem these issues before enforcement action is required.

It has also been a good opportunity for intelligence gathering; through our own sources as well as when out and about in the community. Residents are the best eyes and ears and by speaking with people we can get a far richer picture of what is going on, particularly those issues that go un-reported and fly under the radar. Community intelligence is invaluable and there are options such as Crimestoppers where information can be passed anonymously if required.

We continue to investigate the damage to the window at Perrys last weekend and we are exploring wider enquiries with CCTV and witnesses into the male's movements leading up to the event. From the footage this appears to be a senseless act by an angry man without any justification or excuse. Anyone with any information is urged to come forward and let us know.

Last month I talked about courier fraud and no sooner had I highlighted this, I was made aware of several alleged romance frauds in the area. Given the proximity to Valentine's Day when this type of scam becomes even more prevalent, I thought it best to take the opportunity to mention this and raise overall awareness.

Romance fraud occurs with the fraudster "meeting" the victim online and engaging them in conversation until trust is gained and an online relationship formed. The fraudster will often provide a photograph stolen from another profile and will appear completely genuine, but there will be excuses for not meeting in person or for not engaging in video calls. As the relationship progresses the fraudster will create unfortunate events with a sense of urgency that require the victim to send money to assist. The emotional connection makes the manipulation easier and is usually reinforced by a promise from the fraudster of soon being able to re-locate to be with the victim.

The advice is always to be extra cautious when conversing online and never send money (including vouchers and cryptocurrency) to somebody you have never met. It is worth asking for a second opinion from friends and family and they may also be able to assist with some diligent checks of their profile and picture(s). If in doubt, seek assistance from the police or fraud information sites such as Report Fraud.

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