

## Police Report February 2026

We received a total of 259 calls this month and of these calls 88 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

February 2025 – Total 88

Offence Group	≡	≡	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person			40
Public Order Offences			18
Arson and Criminal Damage			10
Theft			9
Sexual Offences			4
Vehicle Offences			4
Burglary			2
Possession of Weapons			1

February 2025 – Total 80

Offence Group	↓≡ Crime Count
Violence Against The Person	46
Public Order Offences	10
Theft	9
Arson and Criminal Damage	4
Burglary	3
Sexual Offences	3
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	2
Drug Offences	1
Fraud	1
Vehicle Offences	1

The most significant increase last month has been in criminal damage offences. We saw a number of offences recorded in one evening where it appears a group of people took it upon themselves to indiscriminately damage car wing mirrors whilst passing through a residential road. We are collating CCTV and doorbell footage along with canvassing for

witnesses so that the offenders can be identified and brought to justice in light of the financial expense incurred by this senseless behaviour.

I referenced the damage to the shop window of Perrys in last month's report and I'm pleased to update that since then (as promised!) we have identified the male responsible. He has been interviewed at the police station and arrangements have been made to repay the cost of the replacement glass.

There have been two catalytic converter thefts this month from parked cars. It is no coincidence that there has been a rise in the scrap value of certain precious metals which makes those contained within catalytic converters that more appealing. Thieves will often target Japanese models or those with higher ground clearance due to the placement of the converter which makes access easier to remove it from the vehicle. Hybrid vehicles also contain a greater amount of expensive material inside. Removal can be within a minute or two by either climbing underneath or temporarily jacking the car up and using a small electric saw to cut through the exhaust system at either end.

To prevent this type of theft, there are various after-market guards that can be bought and fitted to catalytic converters. Another tip is to protectively mark the converter with an identifying stamp or forensic solution so that it would be harder to sell on and therefore less likely to be stolen.

Whenever the price of scrap metal rises, we naturally see an increase in metal theft and so we work with local scrap metal dealers to ensure they are complying with their legal obligations and taking diligent steps to prevent them from inadvertently purchasing stolen goods.

Moving into March, I am pleased to report we will be welcoming Gideon Amos MP for a walkaround in Wellington on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> where I will have an opportunity to discuss local issues and share some common policing hurdles that he might be able to raise on a wider platform.

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