

## Police Report April 2026

We received a total of 352 calls this month and of these calls 83 crimes were recorded which are broken down into offence groups below. For ease of comparison I've included the same period last year:

April 2026 – Total 83

<b>Offence Group</b>	<b>≡</b>	<b>≡</b>	<b>↓≡ Crime Count</b>
Violence Against The Person			48
Public Order Offences			9
Arson and Criminal Damage			7
Theft			7
Sexual Offences			6
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society			3
Vehicle Offences			2
Drug Offences			1

April 2025 – Total 88

<b>Offence Group</b>	<b>↓≡ Crime Count</b>
Violence Against The Person	37
Theft	20
Arson and Criminal Damage	11
Public Order Offences	11
Sexual Offences	6
Burglary	3

Despite the reduction in recorded crimes against this month last year, we received almost 50 more calls for service compared to April 2025. This again demonstrates the rise in our non-crime demand which will never be fully reflected in crime statistics alone. Last week I gave a presentation to the Local Community Network (LCN) to illustrate this very issue and explain how the role of the police has moved far beyond just dealing with criminal offences.

As the weather improves, we are again seeing a rise in neighbour disputes over comparatively minor issues such as parking and noise complaints. If left un-checked, these matters quickly escalate into threats of violence and sometimes even assaults that require police intervention and a full investigation. We are working hard with housing providers to implement early intervention measures and use tenancy enforcement tools to resolve disputes at the earliest opportunity. It is often far more efficient to report housing matters directly to a housing officer who will be best placed to provide a resolution.

There has been a spate of untaxed vehicles which we have used devolved DVLA powers to seize and remove from the roads. These powers are conferred on the police by the DVLA and allow us to seize vehicles on their behalf when certain criteria are met with their approval. The cost of motoring is rising every day with increased fuel and insurance prices. That said, all vehicles still need to be taxed or SORN (declared off the road) and failure to do so will likely result in its seizure and removal.

Car tax can be checked on the gov.uk website which gives anyone the open-source ability to see the tax and MOT status of any vehicle. We often find people make reports to us of vehicles appearing to be on “false plates” because the make and model that comes back on the website is different to the car they are checking. It’s usually the case that the number plate has been incorrectly entered during the check and in fact when we come to investigate, we see the vehicle is completely in order and bearing the registration it should.

We have recently sent out information to our local primary schools encouraging them to make applications for Mini-Police this year. Mini Police is part of the National Volunteer Police Cadets programme and is aimed at children aged 8 to 11 years old. The 9-week programme provides a fun and interactive way to introduce children to a positive experience of policing and to look at how they can benefit their community. The cadets are provided with a uniform and initially learn about what it is like to work in policing before being encouraged to assess a community issue and come up with a project on how they might work to improve it. This is open to all primary schools, but with only a finite amount of equipment and availability to deliver the programme, applications have to be centrally short-listed to ensure fair coverage across the force.

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