

Washington Crime and Disorder 1 December 2016 to 28 February 2017

Please find below some data in respect of Crime and Disorder for Washington covering 1st December to 28th February 2017. For comparison purposes I have also provided the data for the same period last year.

As a Force we have been very honest about our change in crime recording practices over the last year that has resulted in us being more transparent and open in terms of recording crime. After previous concerns nationally around the way crime was recorded we now record all crime as soon as a victim makes an allegation that THEY feel they are a victim of crime. In addition to that we have made great advances in terms of our Domestic Violence policies and Sexual Assaults Investigation that mean we have gained trust and confidence with the public and other agencies due to how we now approach and investigate those very important crimes and in turn victims feel more able to approach us and report those types of crime. These crimes are also often historic in nature sometimes even from decades earlier – also encouraged by the Saville effect and recent high profile media cases. As an example previously police may have attended a report of a fight and upon arrival no one would tell us what had happened and the parties would leave the scene. Last year in the main no crime would be recorded but now that would be recorded as public order offence or assault if there was any evidence to us of anyone having an injury. Despite the outcome being the same. For that reason public order related crime has risen significantly.

Northumbria Police as a whole reported an increase in crime from April 2015- March 2016 by 29% in light of the above. The present year is currently standing at around an 33% increase as we start to stabilise. We do not believe that in real terms crime has gone up just that recording practices are now much more robust in line with HMIC advice and national policies. A recent HMIC report confirmed we had risen from a National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) compliance rate of 72% 2 years ago up to around 93% which puts us ahead of the game nationally. This financial year will be used as a yardstick for future rises/falls after last year's changes.

In addition to these administrative changes social media type fallouts have become a very prevalent issue in terms of parties falling out over social media and then looking to involve police to resolve them where previously advice would have been given we now would record a crime such as malicious communications.

Crime / Disorder	1 December 2015 – 28th February 2016	1 December 2016 – 28th February 2017	+ / -
ASB Reports	450	350	Down 100
Burglary OTD	49	27	Down 22
Burglary Dwelling	20	23	Up 3
Rape	5	16	Up 11
Serious Sex Assaults	16	23	Up 7
Damage to Motor Vehicle	70	49	Down 21
Theft from Motor Vehicle	23	25	Up 2
Total Crime	816	644	Down 21%

Force up 18% in same period

Force and Washington up 33% YTD

The main concern for Washington is ASB emerging at the Galleries.