

Domestic CCTV



Key Points to Consider

- Is CCTV the best answer
- Is it likely to affect other people's privacy
- Are there alternatives you could consider. Have you looked at our Home Security Leaflet

The use of CCTV in general is regulated by the *Data Protection Act 2018*. However, the use of cameras for limited household purposes is exempt from the Act.

The domestic use of CCTV could be challenged if its use amounted to harassment under the *Protection from Harassment Act 1997*. The relevance of the legislation would depend on the specific circumstance.

Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights concerns the right to family and private life. This includes the right to respect for an individual's home and correspondence.

Please consult the relevant pages on The Information Commissioning Officers website to ensure you comply with all of their requirements.

<https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/cctv/>



The following advice relates to preventing crime in your home. It doesn't reflect the use of cameras by professional and amateur photographers within the community.

Ask Yourself?

Before you install CCTV consider:

- Why do you need CCTV?
- Could you use another means to protect your home?
- What do you want your CCTV camera to view and record?
- Will your CCTV system affect the privacy of others?

Who should I get to install my CCTV

To obtain information on companies who supply and install security systems such as intruder alarms, personal attack alarms, CCTV systems etc., within your area, we advise you contact the following independent inspectorate bodies who will provide you with the relevant details. The police are not able to provide this information.

[National Security Inspectorate \(NSI\)](#) 

[Security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board \(SSAIB\)](#) 

If you are thinking of installing a CCTV system yourself, you should ensure that installation is strictly in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

Taking responsibility for your CCTV system

- You should be responsible for all the information that is recorded by your system.
- You should also familiarise yourself with how your system works, so please make sure you read the manual and if necessary ask your installer to show you how to operate it.

Storing the recorded information

- You should make sure that the date and time on your system are accurate.
- Ensure that the information recorded is used only for the purpose for which your system was installed (for example it may not be appropriate to share any recordings on social media sites).
- You should keep the recordings secure and keep access to them to a minimum.

After installation

Check your system regularly to make sure that it is working properly (this may include cleaning any debris affecting the

camera and wiping it down after bad weather).

Check the position of your camera from time to time to make sure it still captures the right images and does not overlook someone else's property or public space, such as walk ways.

- If your system captures information of an incident, it could be used by the police to aid an investigation.
- If you are not sure, check with your installer or your local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Using information as evidence

In certain circumstances, the information you record may be used as evidence. You should bear in mind that:

One of the most common failings in a CCTV system is having image sizes that are too small to enable identification and recognition. The pictures below demonstrate how large a person should look on screen, depending on the purpose you are using the camera for.

		
<p>Identify (100% screen height)*</p>	<p>Recognise (50% screen height)*</p>	<p>Observe (25% screen height)*</p>
<p>Sufficient picture quality and detail to identify an individual beyond reasonable doubt.</p>	<p>Viewers can say with a high degree of certainty whether or not an individual shown is the same as someone they have seen before.</p>	<p>Some characteristic details of the individual, such as distinctive clothing can be seen.</p>
<p>Screen height is how much space vertically a 1.7m tall figure would occupy, as shown in the diagram above</p>		

*on a standard definition image



Sir Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police in 1829. He set out nine principles for policing. The First Principle was:

“To prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment.”

[Click here for further Crime Reduction Advice](#)



All your policing questions answered

<https://www.askthe.police.uk/content/>



Secured by Design. (SBD) The official UK Police flagship initiative combining the principles of 'Designing Out Crime' with physical security. We advise that you look on the SBD website for all of your Security products. <http://www.securedbydesign.com/>



More Security Products can also be found at:
<http://www.soldsecure.com/>

CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

0800 555 111
100% anonymous, Always

Crime Stoppers is an Independent Charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>



Help after crime—Contact Victim Support for free and confidential support
<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/>

Call us on 101. In an emergency always dial 999

