Home CCTV and video doorbell checklist

For a house or flat in the UK with a CCTV camera or a video doorbell. Our summary of guidance from the ICO, the UK's data protection regulator, and GOV.UK, with line 3 from the Planning Portal, checked on 15 November 2026. It is not an official ICO or GOV.UK checklist.

- [ ] **1** Be clear about why you need the camera and what it needs to see.
- [ ] **2** In a flat or rented home, ask your landlord before fixing anything to the building (our suggestion; the official guidance does not cover it).
- [ ] **3** In a listed building or conservation area, check with the local planning authority.
- [ ] **4** Point each camera at your own property wherever you can.
- [ ] **5** Check each camera's live picture, now and from time to time, for anything beyond your boundary.
- [ ] **6** Blur or block out what you do not need to see beyond your boundary, if your system has privacy filters.
- [ ] **7** In the settings, choose whether it records all the time and whether it records sound.
- [ ] **8** Set the correct date and time.
- [ ] **9** Keep recordings secure, for example with a password, and limit who can view them.
- [ ] **10** Set recordings to delete automatically, or delete them yourself regularly.
- [ ] **11** Tell the neighbours your camera faces what you have fitted and what it covers.
- [ ] **12** Put up a notice or sign saying that recording is taking place.
- [ ] **13** Find out how to save a clip for a person you recorded or for the police.
- [ ] **14** Reply to anyone you record who asks for a copy, asks you to delete footage or objects. The ICO says within one calendar month in most instances.
- [ ] **15** Keep recordings off social media.

General information, not legal advice. The full guide, with links to every official page, is at https://aiprotech.co.uk/blog/home-cctv-video-doorbell-rules-uk. You may print and share this page. Prepared by Ai Protech LTD, London.

A note for your neighbours

Fill in the blanks and give a copy to the neighbours your camera or doorbell faces. The wording is our suggestion: the ICO and GOV.UK pages do not set any wording.

Dear neighbour,

I am writing to let you know that I have fitted a CCTV camera / a video doorbell (cross out one) at my address, _____ , to protect my home.

It covers _____ (for example, my front door and drive). It does / does not (cross out one) record sound.

Your property is blocked out of the picture. / The picture also takes in _____ (cross out one).

Recordings are kept securely, viewed only by me / my household (cross out one) and deleted after _____ days. I do not post them online.

If you have a question or a concern, or would like a copy of footage you appear in, please contact me.

With thanks,

Name _____ Phone or email _____ Date _____

Wording for a sign

CCTV in operation. Images and sound are recorded to protect this home.
Questions: please ask at _____

Cross out "and sound" if your camera does not record sound. Write your house or flat number in the blank.

Where the rules come from

ICO (ico.org.uk): Home CCTV systems; Complaints about home CCTV systems; Data protection fee, activities of households. GOV.UK: Guidance on the use of domestic CCTV (Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, updated 21 May 2026); Resolving neighbour disputes. Planning Portal: CCTV (England). legislation.gov.uk: General Permitted Development Order 2015, Class F; Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018. Courts and Tribunals Judiciary: Fairhurst v Woodard, 12 October 2021. The full guide links to every page.

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