UK CCTV Installation Cost & Engineering Specification Guide (2026)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (BLUF): In 2026, professional CCTV installation in the UK ranges from **£495** for an entry 2-camera 4K IP system to **£895–£1,295** for a 4-camera ColorVu/TiOC system with 24/7 full-colour night optics, on-site WD Purple NVR storage, and encrypted mobile remote access with **£0 ongoing monthly subscription fees**.

1. 2026 UK COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC PRICING BENCHMARK

SYSTEM TIER	CAMERAS	HARDWARE & OPTICAL SPECIFICATION	FITTED PRICE (INC. VAT)	ONGOING CLOUD FEES
Starter Domestic	2 Cameras	5MP AcuSense Smart Detection, 1TB NVR, Cat6	**£595 – £795**	£0 (Local HDD)
Family Home Standard	4 Cameras	4K (8MP) 24/7 ColorVu Full-Colour Optics, 2TB NVR	**£895 – £1,295**	£0 (Local HDD)
Executive / Perimeter	6 Cameras	4K Active Deterrence TiOC (Strobes + Siren), 4TB NVR	**£1,395 – £1,895**	£0 (Local HDD)
Commercial / Retail	8+ Cameras	4K Optical Zoom, ANPR Plate Capture, 8TB RAID NVR	**£1,995 – £3,495+**	£0 (Local HDD)

2. HARDWIRED COMMERCIAL POE VS CONSUMER BATTERY SYSTEMS

Professional Hardwired PoE (Hikvision/Dahua)

- **Continuous 24/7 Recording:** Captures before, during, and after incidents without clipping.
- **£0 Monthly Subscriptions:** Video streams directly to internal Western Digital Purple HDD.
- **Zero Wi-Fi Jamming:** Hardwired solid copper 23AWG Cat6 immune to RF deauth jammers.
- **Court-Admissible Evidence:** Native .DAV/.264 exports preserve cryptographic watermarks.

Consumer Wireless (Ring / Arlo / Eufy)

- **Motion-Triggered Only:** Fails to record until heat sensor triggers (misses fast walk-pasts).
- **Mandatory Cloud Fees:** £40 to £120/year per household or clips are permanently lost.
- **Cold Weather Battery Failure:** Lithium cells lose 40% capacity in UK winter temperatures.
- **Wi-Fi Dropouts:** Fails through 9-inch solid brick and Victorian cavity masonry walls.

3. COMPONENT-LEVEL COST INFLUENCES & INSTALLATION FACTORS

ENGINEERING FACTOR	TECHNICAL CONSTRAINT	PRICE IMPACT
Cable Containment	Solid stone masonry vs cavity brick; external UV Cat6 clipping along mortar lines vs conduit.	+£80 – £180 per complex run
Sensor Resolution	1080p (2MP) budget vs 4K (8MP) Ultra HD large F1.0 aperture optical sensors.	+£45 – £75 per camera point
Storage Capacity	1TB (7-10 days 4K continuous) vs 2TB/4TB (30 days UK insurance compliance).	+£65 – £145 per NVR storage upgrade
Outbuilding Links	Detached garage or garden office CCTV: SWA direct burial cable vs 5GHz wireless bridge.	+£180 – £350 per link

4. UK LEGAL & ICO GDPR COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

- **Boundary Restriction:** Domestic CCTV covering private gardens and driveways is 100% exempt from the Data Protection Act 2018.
- **Public Overspill:** If cameras record public footpaths, highways, or neighbouring windows, privacy masking must be enabled or ICO-compliant warning signage erected.

- **PACE 1984 Continuity:** Police evidence requests require native forensic export with timestamp clock drift certification.
