

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) for places of worship



CCTV systems can help supplement existing physical security and electronic detection systems by monitoring internal and external coverage of your property, to provide greater security and peace of mind.

CCTV images are not publicly distributed; instead a dedicated line is employed, transmitting images to a pre-determined location, reducing the opportunity for images to be intercepted. However, they are not infallible and in some instances can be defeated by criminals. They can also be expensive to install and maintain, though advances in digital technologies in recent years has meant costs have come down.

Types of system

If you are thinking of deploying CCTV you need to carefully consider what level of protection you want the system to deliver.

- Simple recordable CCTV systems are ideal if you wish to just monitor suspicious activity, with images being recorded so incidents can be reviewed.
- More expensive and complex systems have the capability for camera coverage to be continually monitored at a remote video response centre. We strongly recommend these systems are installed and maintained by a security specialist company accredited to install CCTV by the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB) in accordance with British Standard 8418.

In these instances the selected remote video monitoring centre should be certified to BS5979 Category II, BS 8591 or BS EN 50518.

- More advanced CCTV systems can be extended to include an audible warning facility via a loud speaker to warn unwelcome visitors of their presence. Also, they can advise nominated keyholders when a crime is in progress. Many monitoring centres will alert police directly that a crime is actually in progress to summon their assistance.

System considerations

- Image quality needs to meet your requirements, especially during the hours of darkness. If a system relies on artificial light, such as floodlighting, check them regularly to prevent damage and breakdown.
- Ensure the location and number of cameras are sufficient for your premises. You may need to consider the impact of seasonal changes during the year e.g. vegetation could grow during the year and block the view/conceal criminal activity.
- For remotely monitored systems sending images to a remote video response centre, it is important to understand the maximum amount of time the system would take to identify a fault in the sending and receiving of information. The CCTV system needs to be able to detect faults such as the following:-
 - A camera that has been attacked or interfered with by a criminal
 - Power failure
 - Possible failure of communications between the control panel and customers.



Other considerations

- If you choose a monitored system, you will need to decide if a nominated church official or a professional keyholding company will respond to a genuine camera activation.
- You need to follow the Information Commission Office (ICO) latest guidance on usage of the system. Check what needs to be in place for your CCTV system to comply with data protection legislation.
- Always remember to consult with your Archdeacon and church architect, if you have one, before proceeding with any installation. You should also send details of any proposed system to us for review.

Need to contact us?

For further advice Ecclesiastical customers can call our Risk Management Advice Line on **0345 600 7531** (Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00, excluding Bank Holidays) or email us at risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com and one of our experts will call you back within 24 hours.

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