

AI CCTV for Security Companies

The 2026 UK Buyer's Guide for Guarding Firms, Facilities Managers, and Corporate Security Teams

Prepared by Fortix AI • fortixai.com

This guide is for security directors, operations managers, and FM leaders evaluating AI video analytics. It covers what AI CCTV actually does in 2026, how Edge and Cloud deployments differ, what to look for in a vendor, and how to build a procurement-ready business case in under two weeks.

1. Why AI CCTV, and why now

- Reactive monitoring no longer scales. Operators miss up to 90% of events after 20 minutes of screen time.
- AI analytics shifts CCTV from forensic to preventive: intrusion, loitering, weapon, ASB, PPE, and ANPR alerts in seconds.
- Modern detection models run on existing cameras. There is no need to rip-and-replace estate.

2. Use cases that pay back fastest

- Out-of-hours intrusion detection on commercial and industrial sites.
- Virtual guarding to replace or augment night patrols and remote monitoring stations.
- ANPR for car parks, gated yards, and vehicle-of-interest watchlists.
- Weapon, ASB, and aggression detection in retail, transport, and night-time economy.
- PPE and zone breach monitoring on construction and warehouse sites.

3. Edge vs Cloud, the honest comparison

- Edge: AI runs on-site on a small compute box. Low latency, bandwidth-friendly, resilient to internet outages, strong for data-sensitive sites.
- Cloud: AI runs in the Fortix cloud. Faster to roll out, no on-site hardware refresh, ideal for multi-site portfolios and remote monitoring centres.
- Most security operators run a hybrid: Edge at high-bandwidth or sensitive sites, Cloud everywhere else, all surfaced in one portal.

4. The 12-point vendor checklist

- Works with your existing IP and ONVIF cameras (no proprietary hardware lock-in).
- Offers both Edge and Cloud deployments under one platform.
- Has 10+ production detection models, not just intrusion.
- Sub-3 second alert latency from detection to notification.
- Alerts to mobile app, email, and operator portal (no SMS dependency).

- Two-way audio, talk-down, and integration with ARC monitoring stations.
- UK-hosted data, GDPR-aware retention, and configurable privacy zones.
- Open API for VMS, access control, and ticketing integrations.
- False-alert tuning per site, per camera, per time-of-day.
- Transparent per-camera pricing, no per-event surcharges.
- Pilot on your own cameras within 14 days.
- UK-based support with named technical contact.

5. Building the business case

- Replace one keyholding callout per month and the platform pays for itself.
- Convert one manned guarding shift to virtual guarding for typical ROI of 3 to 6 months.
- Use evidence packs to recover insurance excess on theft, fly-tipping, and vandalism claims.
- Quantify response time improvement, not just incident count.

6. Procurement-ready specification

- Detection models: intrusion, loitering, ANPR, weapon, PPE, ASB, fire/smoke, people counting, facial recognition.
- Deployment: Edge on Jetson-class compute, or Cloud via secure RTSP pull.
- Hosting: UK data centres, ISO 27001 hosting partners, encrypted in transit and at rest.
- Alerts: mobile push, email, portal, webhook, ARC API.
- Reporting: incident logs, evidence export, configurable dashboards.

7. Next steps

- Book a free site assessment with the Fortix AI team.
- Generate a costed proposal in minutes using the AI Proposal Generator at fortixai.com/proposal.
- Run a no-commitment 14-day pilot on up to four of your existing cameras.

Talk to Fortix AI

Visit fortixai.com/sectors/security or generate a free proposal at fortixai.com/proposal.

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