

## CCTV Operator

A CCTV (closed circuit television) operator works in a central control room, monitoring and controlling a bank of screens. These are linked to surveillance cameras placed in public places, buildings and places such as construction sites, to detect and prevent crime, and protect people.

### The Work

You could be:

- sitting in front of a bank of up to 15 screens, constantly monitoring the live pictures that come in from the surveillance cameras
- operating the position of the cameras, for example if a cash machine is about to be emptied, you would focus the camera on the security guard
- monitoring anyone acting suspiciously, and alerting security staff or police if you see an act of theft, vandalism or any other crime
- monitoring cleaning staff working in large empty buildings for their safety
- notifying the police of any anti-social behaviour
- keeping a log of all incidents to pass onto police
- called to give evidence in court as a witness.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Starting pay is often based on the National Minimum Wage (NMW) or the National Living Wage (NLW).

As of 1 April 2024 the National Minimum Wage is £6.40 an hour for workers under 18, £8.60 an hour for workers aged 18 to 20. The National Living Wage for those aged 21 and over is £11.44 an hour.

With experience, you could earn up to £11.00 an hour. You may get a shift allowance.

### Conditions

- You would work indoors in a central control room in front of a number of screens.
- You would be expected to work shifts to cover 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many jobs advertised are for 12 hour shifts with 4 days on and 4 days off.
- You may work in a team of operators or on your own.
- You would keep in frequent contact with colleagues through telephone and radio contact.

### Getting In

- There are no formal entry requirements.
- Previous experience in a security position may be useful but is not necessary.
- A Public Space Surveillance (CCTV) Licence from the Security Industry Authority (SIA) is required to work as a CCTV operator. Some employers will expect you to already have this licence.
- To qualify for this licence you must be aged 18 or over. You will also need to pass an identity check, a criminal record check and have achieved an SIA approved Award for Working as a CCTV Operator (Public Space Surveillance) in the Private Security Industry (Scotland) at SCQF Level 6.
- To achieve this you must study three mandatory modules, which take 32 hours to complete.
- See the SIA website for a list of accredited Public Space Surveillance (CCTV) qualifications.

Jobs are often with local authorities which will be advertised on [myjobscotland](https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/) website. There are also jobs with Police Scotland in some areas. See their [website](#) for current vacancies.

## What Does It Take

You should be:

- alert and observant
- able to work alone without supervision
- able to concentrate over long periods
- discreet, never discussing anything you see on the monitors with anyone outside work
- able to remain calm under pressure
- able to react quickly
- computer literate
- able to work in a team and alone.

You should have:

- excellent communication skills
- a responsible approach.

## Training

Training is usually on the job. Your employer may put you through the qualifications necessary to obtain the Public Space Surveillance (CCTV) Licence.

## Getting On

Working in a large organisation may give you better potential for promotion to supervisor or manager.

## Contacts

### Security Industry Authority (SIA)

Website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/security-industry-authority](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/security-industry-authority)

Twitter: @SIAuk

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/thesiauk](https://www.facebook.com/thesiauk)

**Skills for Security**

Tel: 01905 744000

Email: [info@skillsforsecurity.org.uk](mailto:info@skillsforsecurity.org.uk)

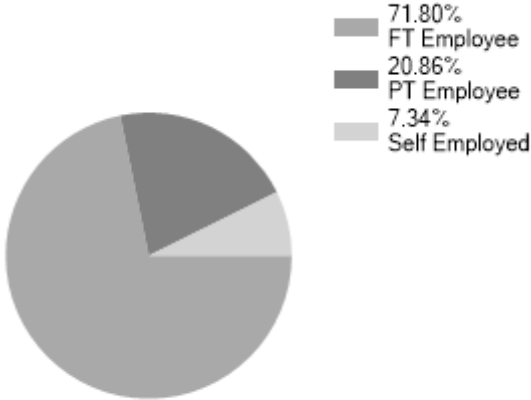
Website: [www.skills4security.com](http://www.skills4security.com)

Twitter: @Skills4Security

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/skillsforsec](http://www.facebook.com/skillsforsec)

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

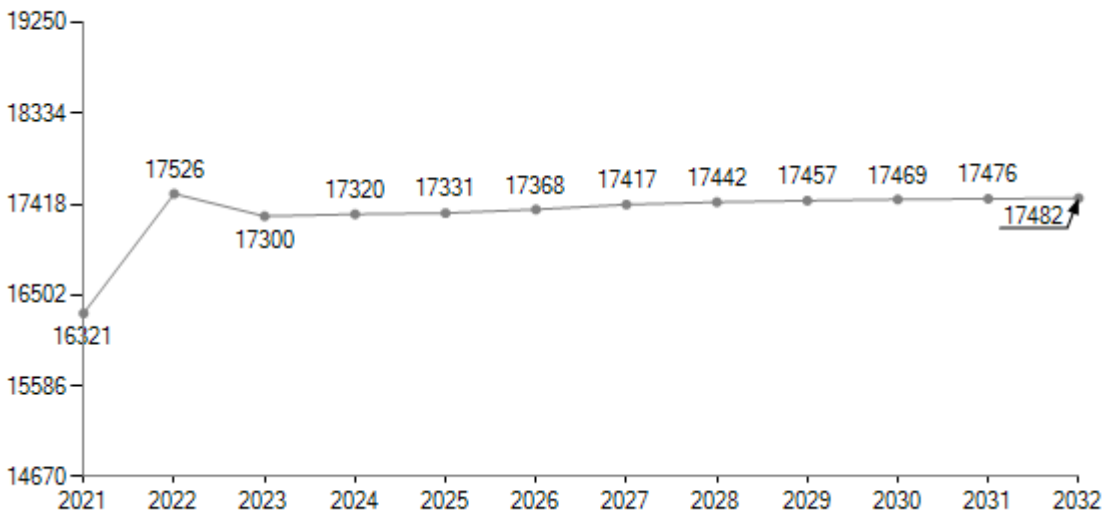


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)