



Response Date: 11/03/2026

2026/257 - The use of consumer grade surveillance for forensic usability

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

1. Does your force use Ring doorbell or other smart doorbell footage as part of criminal investigations? (Yes / No)

Yes

2. If such footage is used, how frequently does it contribute to investigations? (Rarely / Occasionally / Frequently)

Occasionally

3. Is forensic image or video enhancement typically applied to Ring doorbell footage to improve its usability? (Yes / No / In some cases)

In some cases

4. Has your force considered, trialled, or used AI-based image or video enhancement tools for processing Ring doorbell or other domestic CCTV footage? (Yes / No / Under consideration)

Under consideration

5. What are the most common technical or evidential challenges encountered when working with Ring doorbell footage? (For example: image quality, compression, lighting, motion blur, glare, distance, occlusion, or metadata issues.)

Recovering the data.

6. From your experience, what image features are most important when assessing the usefulness of Ring doorbell footage? (For example: clothing, carried objects, facial features, movement, or contextual background detail.)

No information held.

7. If enhancement is applied, what factors influence whether the footage is considered suitable for evidential use rather than intelligence-only purposes?

No information held.

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8. Are there any concerns or limitations associated with the use of AI-based enhancement tools in forensic investigations that you consider particularly significant?

Auditing log of what has actually happened with the videos/images and how reliable the enhancement is with regards to potential additions or removals of evidence.

9. In your view, what safeguards or validation steps would be necessary for AI-enhanced imagery to be considered appropriate for evidential use in court?

Audit logging and comparison of the end product to that of the original.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 10/03/2026