

Martyn's Law Update

The current threat to the UK from terrorism is substantial, meaning an attack is likely. In recent months there have been a number of high profile terrorist attacks on public events and venues across the world resulting in multiple deaths, life changing injuries and damage to communities. This is why it is more important than ever for the government to introduce requirements to make sure the threat of terrorism is carefully considered by those responsible for operating events and venues as part of their risk assessment process and contingency planning.

Martyn's law, known as The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 received royal assent on the 3rd April 2025. The law was introduced following a tireless campaign to improve the protective security and safety of public events and venues by Figen Murray, the mother of Martyn Hett who was killed in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack. The law is due to come into force in around two years, allowing venues and event organisers the time to prepare for the incoming legal changes. The Security Authority Industry (SIA) will provide support, advice and guidance to venues and event operators about the new law, as well as enforce it. The SIA will produce statutory guidance about how it will discharge its functions in due course.

The legislation introduces two tiers for venues/events and requirements will differ depending on the tier the event or venue falls under. **Standard tier** venues/events are those where between 200-799 people (staff and visitors) are expected to attend and there are two legal requirements:

- No physical measures will be required but instead low-cost, practical steps are expected to be taken by staff to prepare a response to a possible terrorist attack at, or close to the venue. These measures, known as public protection measures will include procedures to protect people from harm including evacuation or invacuation (moving people to a safe area inside the premises), how you will communicate with patrons/staff and locking down the premises.
- A responsible person will also need to tell the regulator (who will be the Security Industry Authority) about their premises.

Enhanced tier venues/events are those where there is more than 800 people (staff and visitors) expected at least some of the time. Including the requirements under the standard tier, the responsible person will also need to:

- put appropriate public protection measures in place to reduce both (i) the vulnerability of the premises or event to a terrorist act, and (ii) the risk of harm to people if an attack were to happen there or nearby. For example, enhanced duty premises will be required, so far as is reasonably practicable, to implement measures to monitor the premises and their immediate vicinity;
- keep a record of the public protection procedures and measures in place, or proposed to be put in place, and provide this document to the SIA. It should include an assessment of how the public protection procedures and measures will reduce vulnerability and/or the risk of harm; and
- Where the responsible person is not an individual, they must designate a senior individual with responsibility for ensuring that the responsible person complies with these requirements.

For more detailed information and further updates, see here:
<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2025/04/03/martyns-law-factsheet/>

Preparing for the legal changes

Training for event/venue staff

There are things you can do now to start preparing for Martyn's law being introduced. The ACT Awareness E-Learning is free counter-terrorism awareness training available online and we recommend that all those involved in the events industry do it. It provides practical advice on what to look for, and what to do in certain situations. It covers:

- Introduction to terrorism
- Identifying security vulnerabilities
- How to identify and respond to suspicious behaviour
- How to Identify and Deal with a Suspicious Item
- What to do in the Event of a Bomb Threat
- How to Respond to a Firearms or Weapons attack

The training course can be found here: <https://ct.protectuk.police.uk/>

Staff can be the first to spot when something isn't quite right so can be the biggest advantage you have to prevent threats from terrorists and criminals. The See, Check and Notify (SCaN) training is free training offered by the National Protective Security Authority designed to empower staff in organisations to identify suspicious activity and know what to do when they see it. More information can be found here: <https://www.npsa.gov.uk/see-check-and-notify-scan>

Review your risk assessments

Employers and the self-employed have a legal duty under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to ensure the safety of their employees and public at workplaces. Event sites/venues are considered workplaces under this act. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 requires that a risk assessment be completed to remove or minimise risks to staff and volunteers, participants and the visiting public arising from the event. Threats from terrorism need to be considered during the risk assessment process. This will help to inform the protective security requirements for your event including staffing, procedures and physical security measures (if warranted).

Further reading:

The Event Safety Guide is a useful source of information for event organisers on a range of topics, including health and safety, counter terrorism, planning, management and risk assessment, contingency and emergency planning etc. It can be found here: <https://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk/>

For other updates and useful information relating to the counter terrorism see: [Venues, Events & Public Spaces | Security Guidance | NPSA](#) and the Protect UK website: <https://www.protectuk.police.uk/>

Other useful council webpages:

For information on Licensing, event safety and Safety Advisory Groups: [Business, licensing and regulation – Newham Council](#)

For information on road closures for events taking place on the public highway: [Apply for a road closure – Road closures and diversions – Newham Council](#)