

Protect Duty (Martyn's Law)

Terrorist attacks in the UK are rare, but the threat is real, evolving, and increasingly unpredictable. Public spaces and crowded venues remain attractive targets, often chosen without warning.

In response, the government is introducing Martyn's Law (formerly the Protect Duty) to strengthen public safety and ensure a consistent level of preparedness across the UK.

Named in memory of Martyn Hett, one of the 22 victims of the 2017 Manchester Arena attack, the law aims to make security a shared responsibility, across venues, events, and organisations of all sizes to improve public safety.

What is Martyn's Law?

Martyn's Law will require venues to take practical, proportionate steps to improve safety and preparedness. Measures will vary depending on venue size, capacity, and activity, but the goal is simple: better protection for the public.

What does it mean for you?

The legislation introduces two tiers for venues/events and requirements will differ depending on the tier the event or venue falls under.

Standard Tier (200-799 capacity)

Standard Tier premises must demonstrate baseline preparedness. This includes:

- Clear senior accountability, embedded in existing governance
- Documented plans for evacuation, invacuation or lockdown
- Effective communications and escalation procedures, aligned with Emergency planning, Business continuity and Health and safety

Staff training will focus on:

- Basic threat awareness, recognising suspicious behaviour or concern
- Understand immediate actions in an incident
- Know who makes decisions and how to escalate

There is no requirement for specialist security capability. The emphasis is on practical, workable preparedness.

Enhanced Tier (800+ capacity)

Enhanced Tier premises must meet all Standard Tier requirements, plus additional expectations reflecting higher risk or complexity.

These include:

- More detailed and regularly tested plans
- Enhanced, role-specific training for managers and designated staff
- Consideration of proportionate measures to reduce vulnerability, which may include physical security only where justified by risk and use

The emphasis here is on tested readiness, not prescriptive or one-size-fits-all security solutions.

For Enhanced Tier premises, Staff training expectations are higher:

- Enhanced threat awareness training for all staff
- Scenario-based training and exercising for managers and leaders
- Formal, repeatable training for staff in designated response roles

The goal is readiness in practice, not training for compliance alone.

Resources

The ProtectUK website provides supporting materials to help you prepare for Martyn's Law. These [resources](#) are designed to support you during the implementation period.

Free Training

Guide Shelter Report (GSR)

Guide Shelter Report (GSR) is a set of simple, practical principles designed to help organisations respond effectively during a terrorist incident. It empowers staff to take action, protect people, and save lives through clear, coordinated decision-making.

Guide focuses on moving people away from danger. This may involve directing individuals to exits, bringing them into safer areas, or guiding them to protected spaces within a building. The aim is to make quick, informed decisions that reduce exposure to risk.

Shelter is about keeping people safe once they are out of immediate danger. This could include securing a building (lockdown), moving people to protected internal areas, or using pre-identified safe locations. Effective sheltering relies on preparation, clear procedures, and calm communication.

Report ensures that emergency services are informed as soon as it is safe to do so. Staff should know how to contact the police and provide clear, structured information to support a rapid response.

These principles are dynamic, meaning they do not have to be followed in a strict order. Depending on the situation, actions may happen simultaneously or in a different sequence. Staff should be prepared to adapt quickly to changing circumstances.

GSR is designed to support an organisation's duty of care, providing a more structured and coordinated response than individual actions alone. It complements public guidance such as "Run, Hide, Tell" by ensuring organisations take an active role in protecting people on their premises.

To be effective, GSR must be supported by planning, training, and practice. Staff need to understand their roles, feel confident in their actions, and be familiar with procedures such as evacuation, lockdown, and communication protocols. For more information the **Guide Shelter Report** (GSR) guidance is now live on ProtectUK

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/gsr>

ACT awareness Training

[ACT Awareness](#) will provide nationally recognised corporate counter terrorism guidance to help people better understand, and mitigate against, current terrorist methodology, including:

- Understanding terrorism threats
- Identifying vulnerabilities
- Recognising suspicious behaviour
- Responding to incidents (bomb threats, weapons attacks, etc.)

See. Check. Notify. (SCaN)

SCaN training empowers your staff to correctly identify suspicious activity and know what to do when they encounter it. The skills your staff learn will also help them to provide an enhanced customer experience. It helps ensure that individuals or groups seeking to cause your organisation harm are unable to get the information they need to plan their actions.

- **See** – Stay aware and trust your instincts
- **Check** – Engage positively (even a simple “Can I help?” can disrupt threats)
- **Notify** – Report concerns using your site’s procedures

It’s practical, low-cost, and highly effective. For more information on SCaN, visit the [National Protective Security Authority](#).

Protective security schemes – Faith Community

Places of worship or other faith community organisations can apply for protective security.

The funding is part of the government’s commitment to ensure that faith communities are protected from the threat of hate crime and terror attacks, and can practise their faith freely and without fear.

The Home Office will provide funding for physical protective security (such as CCTV, intruder alarms and secure fencing) to be installed to help protect mosques, churches, temples, gurdwaras and other places of worship.

There are 4 schemes available:

- [Jewish Community Protective Security Grant](#)
- [Protective Security for Mosques Scheme](#)
- [Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme](#) (for all other faiths)
- [Faith Security Training \(FST\)](#): free security awareness training for faith communities across England and Wales

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](#)