

BRIEFING: Martyn's Law – Duty to Provide Customer Safety in Venues

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (TPOP) aims to improve protective security in the UK. Known as Martyn's Law, it aims to strengthen the security of public premises and events in the UK. Martyn Hett was one of the victims of the Manchester bombing in 2017. The law was enacted in April 2025 following extensive campaigning by his mother, Figen Murray, to improve public safety and ensure that lessons are learnt from past attacks. Its aim is to reduce harm and save lives. Enforcement of the Act is likely to be from Spring 2027, and once enacted premises will have 3 months in which to register with the regulator, the Security Industry Authority (SIA). A detailed breakdown of the information you will be required to submit can be found in the [Home Office document Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025 Notification requirements](#).

Since March 2017, Counter Terrorism Police assess there have been 18 domestic terror attacks in the UK, and security services and law enforcement have together disrupted 43 late-stage plots. The threat picture is described as complex, evolving and enduring, with terrorists choosing to attack a broad range of locations. The current national threat level is described as substantial.

Definition of Terrorism

The Terrorism Act 2000 defines terrorism, both in and outside the UK, as the use or threat of one or more of the following actions:

- serious violence against a person
- serious damage to property
- endangering a person's life (other than that of the person committing the action)
- creating a serious risk to the health or safety of the public, or a section of the public
- action designed to seriously interfere with or seriously disrupt an electronic system

And also where they are designed to influence the government, or an international government organisation, or to intimidate the public.

Though these types of attacks are rare, the process of preparing your public protection procedures will also help you consider wider safety implications for your staff and

beneficiaries, such as random acts of violence. The mitigating actions you will put in place to meet the legal requirements of Martyn's Law, such as evacuation and invacuation procedures, are also relevant to wider safety concerns affecting public access buildings.

Martyn's Law Requirements

Qualifying premises and events are to evidence the steps they would take to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce the risk of physical harm in the event of an attack.

There are two tiers of compliance to the Act:

- **The Standard Tier** applies to venues of 200-799. They must implement basic public protection procedures such as evacuation and staff training. There is no requirement to install physical measures for standard tier venues.
- **The Enhanced Tier** applies to venues with a capacity of 800+. They must conduct risk assessments and provide more comprehensive security measures including CCTV, bag searches and counter terrorism training for staff.

This briefing will focus on the Standard Tier and is written to support the voluntary and community sector.

The Standard Tier focus is on ensuring premises have simple and low-cost public protection procedures in place such as evacuation. It applies to venues with a capacity of 200-799.

Capacity is normally determined on the capacity that the fire brigade base their understanding of your fire safety requirements on. Though not required if your capacity is 199, it would be sensible for trustees to have basic measures for public protection in place even if the capacity of the building does not meet the regulator requirement.

The categories of use relevant to the voluntary and community sector (VCS) set out in Schedule 1 of the Act include:

- entertainment and leisure activities, e.g. theatres
- sports grounds and premises
- libraries, museums and galleries
- halls, including community centres
- childcare.

Excluded premises in Schedule 2 of the Act include:

- parks, gardens and other open-air premises used for recreation or leisure (only applies to open access premises which do not have measures to secure or check that access is restricted).

Enforcement Timeline

The Act is likely to come into force in Spring 2027. Once enacted premises will have 3 months in which to register with the regulator, the Security Industry Authority (SIA). A detailed breakdown of the information you will be required to submit can be found in the [Home Office document Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025 Notification requirements](#). There is no legal requirement to comply until the Act comes into force, but understanding the requirements and what you will need to do to fulfil them will help you prepare.

The requirements when the Act comes into force for those responsible for qualifying premises and events. You must:

1. Notify the SIA of the **Responsible Person** for the premises. The legislation defines the Responsible Person as the individual, organisation or company that has control of the premises for its relevant public use, or control of the premises for the purposes of a qualifying event. This person does not have to be onsite, but can act as a representative and point of contact for the regulator. It can be a paid staff member or trustee/volunteer. The corporate body can be identified as the responsible person, but you will still need to tell the regulator who the named Designated Senior Individual (DSI) acting on behalf of the corporate body is. You are legally required to keep the registration up to date. ***Where the building is hired out, the responsible person remains with the building, not the hirer.***
2. Have in place as far as reasonably practicable, appropriate public protection procedures that could be reasonably expected to reduce the risk of physical harm if an attack occurs there or nearby. There are four elements to this:
 - Evacuation - how to safely move people out of the building
 - Invacuating - how to move people to a safer space within the premises (e.g. away from windows)

- Lockdown - procedures for securing the premises to prevent individuals from entering or leaving
- Communication - how to alert people on the premises to the danger and provide instructions.

Terrorism Risk Assessment

This will include:

- an overview of the premises - a floor plan will be helpful
- name and contact details for the responsible person/DSI
- possible threats – consider here your own direct use of the building and the activity of your hirers
- possible harm – e.g. physical injury from an armed attack
- the controls you already have in place – e.g. provide training to employees on how to identify and report suspicious behaviour/packages
- decisions and further actions to be taken post-assessment – e.g. actions to reduce risk, such as controlled entry to the building
- progress review – refresh and test the plan regularly and ensure that it is built into induction and staff training.

Staff Awareness

- Training on your public protection procedures for your staff and volunteers.
- Inclusion of basic public protection procedures in your information to hirers. Include a simple guide to your own public protection procedures and the national public safety protocol resource Run, Hide, Tell, created by Counter Terrorism Policing to support public safety (see resource section).
- Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) free e-learning from Protect UK – good practices to help counter terrorism and increase security awareness (see resource section).

Please note: It is ***not*** a specific requirement to provide medical treatment and associated public access trauma first aid kits within the Act. However, the government encourages venues to consider appropriate first aid training, and Protect UK provide wider guidance on their website (see resource section).

The Regulator

The Security Industry Association (SIA) has been appointed as the regulator. It is one of the

four protective security partners (Home Office, National Counter Terrorism Security Office and National Protective Security Authority) working together to ensure premises and events in and out of the scope of the TPOP are protected and better prepared in the event of an attack.

The role of the regulator is to provide advice on and ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements of the legislation, supporting those responsible for qualifying premises and events to meet their obligations, and to determine what reasonably practical procedures and measures should be in place. The SIA will not charge for inspections, post-inspection advice or notifications.

Where there are instances of serious or persistent non-compliance the SIA will be able take enforcement action including compliance notices, monetary penalties and restriction notices.

There is commitment to the Home Office guidance being self-explanatory and easy to follow, requiring no particular expertise nor the use of third-party products and services offered by the private sector. *The four protective security partners do not endorse any third-party products offered by the private sector in respect of compliance with the legislation.*

Five Next Steps: What You Can Do Now to Prepare

1. Identify at least three people within your organisation to act as a steering group for the implementation of Martyn's Law. This should include a lead trustee representing the board.
2. As a group, work through the suite of resources provided by Protect UK and complete the Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) e-Learning (see resources section).
3. Think through who you will identify as your responsible person/corporate body and the expectations of the role.
4. Risk assessment – consider:
 - how an attack might realistically occur
 - which locations or activities may be vulnerable
 - what the likely impact could be
 - what practical controls can reduce harm.

5. Build on the public safety and health and safety measures you already have in place for your premises. The Martyn's Law requirements consider public safety from a specific angle of terrorism but are intended as an enhancement of what you already have in place.

Resources

Overview and Key Aspects of the Terrorism (The Protection of Property) Act 2025

Protect UK is the trusted and reliable source for counter terrorism protective security training and information for public spaces and venues across the United Kingdom. As part of NaCTSO (National Counter Terrorism Security Office), they provide free and easy access to security and preparedness advice, guidance and e-Learning. They have collated a full suite of animations, and the latest available guidance to guide you through the background and context to Martyn's Law and the requirements once the TPOP is implemented.

Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Awareness e-Learning

This online course is free and provided by Protect UK. To access the course, you need to register with the Protect UK website. The course is a series of modules, many of which are interactive. The modules include the following:

- How to identify security vulnerabilities and highlighting poor practices
- How to identify and respond to suspicious activity
- How to identify and respond to a suspicious item – the HOT protocol
- How to respond to a marauding attacker.

Your learning is tested at the end of each module, and a certificate is issued on completion. Regardless of whether you are a qualifying venue, this e-Learning, which takes about an hour, is a useful resource to consider security and responding actions in your building.

Run Hide Tell

Counter Terrorism Policing have provided three key steps for keeping safe in the event of a firearms or weapons attack:

- Run: if it's safe, this is the best option
- Hide: if you can't run, hide
- Tell: call 999 when it's safe to do so.

There is an accompanying video. [The Association of Ambulance Chief Executives](#) reiterate this information and include a National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) public information film "Stay Safe".

First Aid

There is no specific requirement to provide medical treatment and associated equipment within the Act. However, should you wish to raise awareness the following is available:

- [Protect UK's](#) advice and guidance includes an awareness video on administering first aid during a terrorist attack and an accompanying PDF presentation on first aid during a terrorist attack
- [Citizen Aid](#) – free information on how to stay safe and treat casualties before the emergency services arrive. Their free resources include there [award-winning app](#) and a community first aid e-Learning training course.

Though not specific to the VCS, [Preparing Parish and Town Councils for Martyn's Law – A Practical Guide for Local Councils](#) is a helpful insight into the range of threat to consider and suggested mitigation including Terrorism Risk Assessment and Proportionate Preparedness.

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October 2026

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