

Martyn's Law

What is Martyn's Law?

Martyn's Law, formally known as the **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025**, is a piece of legislation that aims to ensure public premises and events are better prepared for terrorist attacks.

The Act follows the Manchester Arena Inquiry and London Bridge Inquest, both of which called for the introduction of legislation to protect the public, and the tireless campaigning of **Figen Murray** whose son **Martyn Hett** was one of 22 people killed in the Manchester Arena attack.

This infosheet is designed to be a summary of the requirements of Martyn's Law. Please refer to official Government guidance when making plans for your premises. You can find more information here:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024

What types of venue will have to comply?

Qualifying public premises

Any premises that is wholly or mainly used for one of the purposes listed in the Act - such as retail, education, healthcare or worship - and reasonably expect that at least 200 individuals may be present at the same time, at least occasionally, will have to comply with Martyn's Law.

Premises with a reasonable expectation of having between **200 and 799 people present at the same time will be in a standard tier**, whereas those with an expectation of **800 or more will fall into an enhanced tier**.

Venues that are subject to a specific security regime (e.g. airports) or are freely accessible outdoor spaces, such as public parks and gardens where no checks are carried out on entry, are not included.



Qualifying public events

Events that meet the following four criteria are known as qualifying public events and will also have to comply:

- The event is held at premises which are **not qualifying public premises**.
- The venue is **accessible to members of the public** who have express permission to attend.
- There is a reasonable expectation that **800 or more people**, including staff, will attend.
- There will be **measures to check entry** e.g. ticket checks.

Events with fewer than 800 people expected will not be required to comply with Martyn's Law, with the Government wanting to strike a balance between proportionality and security. Those with **over 800 people expected will be in the enhanced tier**.



Who is 'the responsible person'?

The responsible person ensures the requirements of the Act are met for a qualifying premises or event. Whilst in some cases this person may be an individual, it may be an organisation. Who the responsible person is depends on who has control over the site.

Qualifying public premises

For qualifying premises, this will usually be the person who operates the premises for its primary function, for example, the business renting a shop for a retail purpose rather than the owner of the building.

How will Martyn's Law be regulated?

A new regulatory function established within the **Security Industry Authority** will enforce the legislation. Whilst they will take action in cases of serious or persistent non-compliance, they will provide support, advice and guidance in the first instance.

Qualifying public events

For qualifying public events, the responsible person has control of the premises for the purposes of that event, controlling security and/or admission.

If a company takes control of a premises for an event, and therefore who enters, they are the responsible person, whereas if the owners of a site host a qualifying public event, maintaining control but contracting out ticketing services etc, they remain the responsible person – responsibility cannot be delegated to contractors.

What do the standard and enhanced tiers require?

Standard tier

Requirements for venues that fall within the standard tier:

- **Notification** - The Security Industry Authority (SIA) must be notified of who is responsible for the premises.
- **Public protection procedures** - Procedures must be in place that could be expected to reduce, so far as reasonably practicable, the risk of harm in the event of an attack at the premises, or in the immediate vicinity. Four procedures are required: **evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication**. The responsible person must make staff aware of these procedures so they are ready to respond in an emergency.

Premises such as early years, primary, secondary and further education settings (not higher education e.g. universities) and places of worship will fall into the standard tier regardless of whether they exceed 800 individuals on site.

Enhanced tier

In addition to the procedures of the standard tier, those in the enhanced tier will have to:

- **Designate a senior individual:** Where the responsible person is not an individual, they must designate a senior individual with responsibility for ensuring Martyn's Law is complied with.
- **Public protection measures:** Have in place, so far as reasonably practicable, measures that could be expected to reduce both the vulnerability of the premises/event and the risk of physical harm to individuals in an attack. Measures should:
 1. **Monitor the premises** or event and their immediate vicinity
 2. **Control the movement of individuals** into, out of, or within the premises or event
 3. Provide **physical safety and security** of the premises
 4. **Secure information** which may assist in the planning, preparation and execution of acts of terrorism
- **Documentation:** Venues will need to document the procedures and measures in place, along with an assessment as to how these are expected to reduce, so far as is reasonably practicable, vulnerability and/or risk of harm, and provide this to the SIA.

Resources

Government guidance

These resources, created by the **Home Office**, relate to the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 which received Royal Assent on 3 April 2025. The Home Office will publish further statutory guidance during the 24 month implementation period.

- [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025: Overarching factsheet](#)
- [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025: Responsible person factsheet](#)
- [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025: Standard duty requirements factsheet](#)
- [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025: Enhanced duty requirements factsheet](#)

Protect UK

Protect UK have a number of resources on their website, including:

- [Martyn's Law overview and what you need to know](#)
- [Standard tier - Protect UK](#)
- [Enhanced tier - Protect UK](#)

ACT in a BOX exercises

ACT in a BOX is an interactive exercise which enables organisations to rehearse and explore their response to fictional terrorist incidents at or near their premises. There are two scenarios:

- [Improvised Explosive Device \(IED\)](#)
- [Marauding attacker](#)

Find out more about [ACT in a BOX exercises](#), [here](#).

Alternative formats: This publication is available in large print on request.

Feedback: We welcome feedback on all our information. You can pass your comments to our communications team by emailing info@vcsep.org.uk

