

EMFS Group

Martyn's Law

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025

This briefing provides managers and venue operators with a practical overview of Martyn's Law, the new UK legislation designed to improve protective security and preparedness at public premises and events.

What is Martyn's Law?

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly known as Martyn's Law, forms part of the UK Government's wider strategy to strengthen public safety and improve preparedness against terrorism. The legislation places a legal responsibility on certain premises and event organisers to consider the threat of terrorism and implement proportionate protective measures.

Although the Act received Royal Assent on 3 April 2025, implementation is expected to begin following a two-year preparation period. This transition period is intended to allow organisations time to understand the requirements, assess risks and prepare for compliance.

Standard Duty Premises	200–799 individuals
Enhanced Duty Premises	800+ individuals
Regulator	Security Industry Authority (SIA)
Expected Implementation	From 2027 onwards

What Premises and Events Are in Scope?

The Act applies to publicly accessible premises where it is reasonable to expect that at least 200 individuals may be present at the same time, including staff.

- Retail premises and shopping centres
- Restaurants, bars and hospitality venues
- Sports grounds and leisure venues
- Hotels and entertainment venues

- Places of worship
- Education settings
- Public authority buildings

Qualifying events may also fall within scope where 800 or more individuals are expected to attend and there are controlled entry conditions, such as ticket checks or security screening.

Who Is the Responsible Person?

The responsible person is generally the organisation or individual who controls the premises or event in connection with its primary use. For events, responsibility usually sits with the organiser controlling the event space.

Enhanced duty premises and qualifying events must also appoint a senior individual, such as a director or senior manager, to oversee compliance and ensure organisational accountability.

Key Requirements Under the Act

Standard Duty	Enhanced Duty
Notify the SIA of qualifying premises	Notify the SIA and maintain documented protection measures
Implement practical public protection procedures	Introduce additional protective security measures
Train staff on emergency response procedures	Appoint a designated senior individual

Public Protection Procedures

Public protection procedures should be practical, proportionate and rehearsed. The aim is to reduce the risk of physical harm during a terrorist incident.

- Evacuation procedures
- Invacuation and shelter arrangements
- Lockdown procedures
- Communication plans for staff and visitors
- Incident escalation and emergency services liaison

Enforcement and Penalties

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) will act as the regulator for Martyn's Law. The SIA will provide guidance, monitor compliance and take enforcement action where necessary.

Penalties for serious or repeated non-compliance can include compliance notices, restriction notices and significant financial penalties. Enhanced duty premises and qualifying events may face fines of up to £18 million or 5% of worldwide revenue in the most serious cases.

Recommended Actions for Organisations

- Review whether your premises or events fall within scope
- Assess occupancy levels and event capacities
- Review existing emergency and evacuation plans
- Consider staff awareness and terrorism response training
- Identify potential vulnerabilities in site access and crowd movement
- Begin documenting protective security arrangements ahead of implementation

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