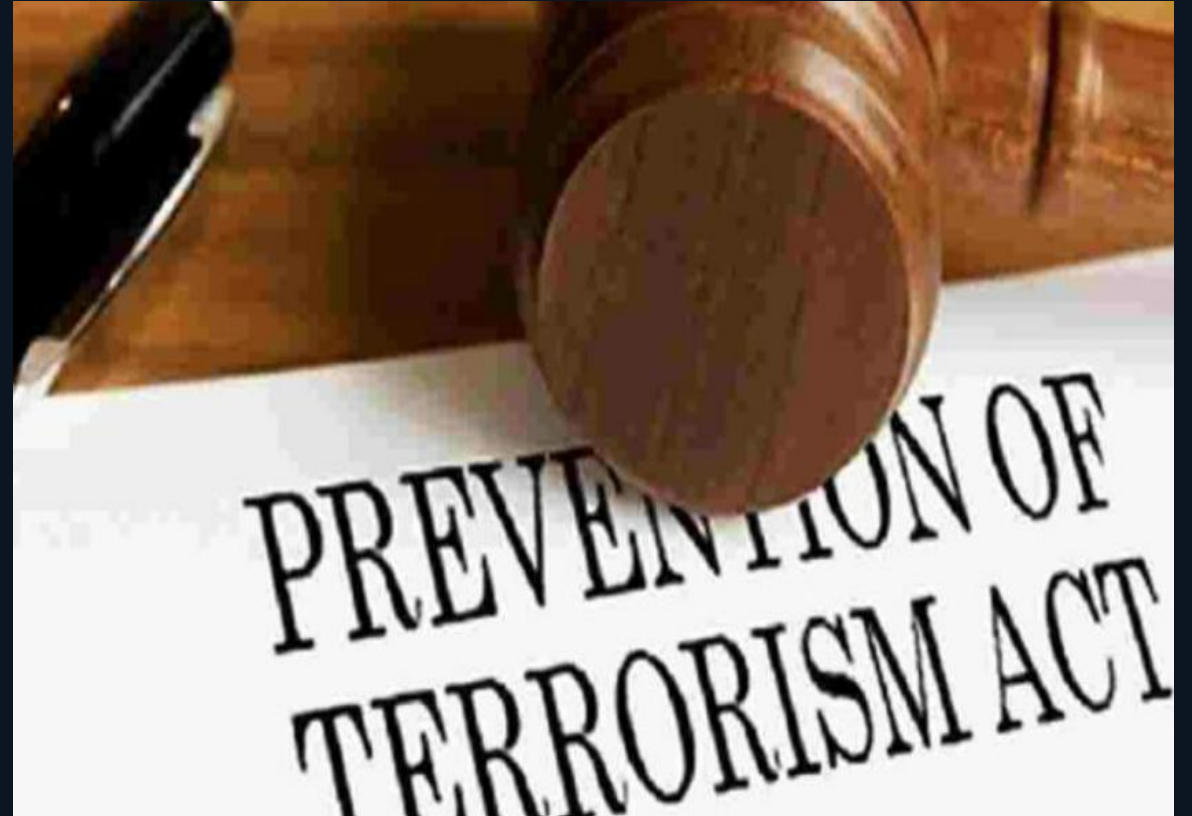


MARTYN'S LAW

From Manchester to practical preparedness

What the law means • where it is now •
what organisations should do next

Martin Cleworth, Consultant,



THE HUMAN STORY

Why this law exists

22 MAY 2017

Manchester Arena

22 people were killed in the attack.
Martyn Hett, aged 29, was one of them.



The campaign, led by Martyn's mother, Figen Murray, helped turn a personal tragedy into a national conversation about how public places prepare for terrorism.

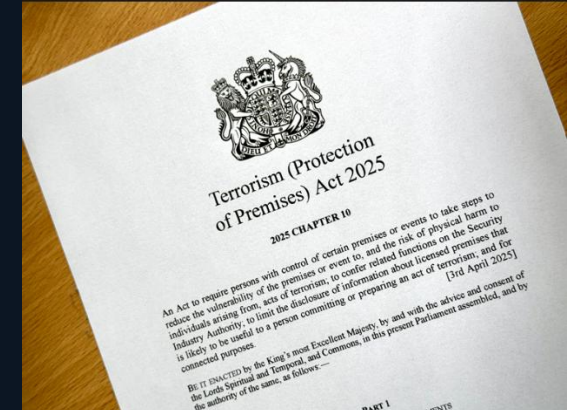
THE QUESTION

Could better preparedness reduce harm?



FROM TRAGEDY TO LEGISLATION

The legal journey



2017



Manchester Arena attack

2021



Manchester
Arena Inquiry
recommendation
s

2023



Draft Terrorism
(Protection of Premises)
Bill

2024



Revised Bill
introduced

3 APR 2025



**Royal Assent — Act
becomes law**

APR 2026



Home Office
statutory guidance
published

SPRING 2027*



**Expected
commencement**



What are we trying to achieve?

1

PREPARE

Know what to do before an incident happens.

2

PROTECT

Reduce the risk of physical harm.

3

PROPORTIONATE

Do what is reasonably practicable.

4

PRACTICAL

Procedures must work in the real world.

Not a fortress. Not a tick-box. A proportionate, workable approach to keeping people safer.

UK Terrorist Attack Methodologies – 25 Year Perspective

Analysis of UK terrorist attacks (2001 – 2026) shows three methodologies are most likely.

1

Marauding Attacker

High-priority scenario to plan for



Rapid, dynamic attack using readily available weapons in public places, aiming to maximise casualties.

2

Explosive Device

Potential for high consequence



Use of explosive devices, including improvised explosive devices, in public areas or within venues.

3

Vehicle as a Weapon

Low complexity / accessible methodology



Use of a vehicle to deliberately strike pedestrians, often in busy public spaces.

Timeline (2001 – 2026)



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HM Government

UK TERRORISM THREAT LEVEL

CURRENT NATIONAL THREAT LEVEL

SEVERE

An attack is highly likely



LOW

An attack is highly unlikely

MODERATE

An attack is possible, but not likely

SUBSTANTIAL

An attack is likely

SEVERE

An attack is highly likely

CRITICAL

An attack is highly likely in the near future

“The threat level can change at any time as new information becomes available.”

— MI5 / GOV.UK

POLICE

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ORGANISATIONAL RESILIENCE

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POLICE DO NOT CROSS

Does Martyn's Law apply to us?



Is it a qualifying premises or event?

Specified use • not excluded • public location / qualifying event

Special rule: childcare, primary / secondary / further education and places of worship remain Standard Tier even at 800+.

The threshold is about the number of people reasonably expected to be present at the same time - not simply the building's headline capacity.

UNDER 200

Not within the Act.
But good security practice still matters.

200–799

STANDARD TIER
Procedures + notification

800+

ENHANCED TIER
Procedures + measures + documented compliance

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ORGANISATIONAL RESILIENCE

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200-799 PEOPLE

Standard Tier

THE FOCUS IS PREPAREDNESS



EVACUATION

Move people away from danger.

INVACUATION

Move people to a safer place within the premises.

LOCKDOWN

Secure the premises to restrict entry/exit.

COMMUNICATION

Get clear information and instructions to people.

Plus: notify the SIA when the law comes into force.

NO AUTOMATIC REQUIREMENT FOR NEW PHYSICAL SECURITY

800+ PEOPLE / QUALIFYING EVENTS

Enhanced Tier

EVERYTHING IN STANDARD - PLUS



PUBLIC PROTECTION MEASURES

- **Monitoring** - e.g. CCTV
- **Movement** - people entering, leaving and moving around
- **Physical security**
- **Security of information**

DOCUMENTED COMPLIANCE

Document the procedures and measures, assess how they reduce risk / vulnerability, keep the document current and provide it to the SIA.

Senior Individual

Where the Responsible Person is an organisation or company, a Senior Individual must be designated to ensure compliance.

Who is the Responsible Person?

The Responsible Person

Under the Protect Duty

The individual or organisation with control of a qualifying public venue or event, who is accountable for ensuring appropriate protective security measures are in place.



-  **Assess risk**
Understand the threat and vulnerability to your venue or event.
-  **Put in place measures**
Implement proportionate and reasonable protective security measures.
-  **Work with others**
Engage with staff, suppliers, tenants, emergency services and the local community.
-  **Keep plans up to date**
Review, test and improve arrangements to maintain preparedness.
-  **Be accountable**
Take ownership, demonstrate compliance and be prepared for inspection.

May be a company, organisation or individual.

The legal definition is about who has control of the qualifying premises / event for the relevant use.

Tasks can be delegated.
Legal responsibility cannot simply be contracted away.

The SIA — regulator – ‘go live’ Spring 2027

NOTIFY

Receive notifications



Security Industry
Authority

ASSESS

Assess compliance

ADVISE

Provide regulatory guidance

INSPECT

Desk-based & in-person activity

ENFORCE

Compliance / restriction notices & penalties where necessary

**No fee for notification or
SIA inspections.**

What should you be doing now?

Don't just wait - these steps will help you be prepared !



1 — KNOW YOUR STATUS Am I in scope? Standard or enhanced? – unsure then clarify

Understand whether your premises or event falls within Martyn's Law and establish who is responsible.

2 — UNDERSTAND YOUR RISK What are the realistic terrorist threats to my premises or event?

Consider your location, people, layout, access, vulnerabilities and existing security arrangements.

3 — TEST WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE Evacuation | Invacuation | Lockdown | Communication

Don't assume that existing emergency arrangements are effective. Test them against a terrorism scenario.

4 — IDENTIFY THE GAPS People | Procedures | Physical Security | Training | Communications

Where are the weaknesses? What needs to change, improve or be introduced?



continued ...



5 — IMPROVE AND TEST Don't just write the policy — exercise it.

Write it → Train it → Exercise it → Review it → Improve it

6 — KEEP EVIDENCE What have we done, why have we done it and how does it reduce risk?

Keep a clear audit trail of decisions, actions, training, exercises, reviews and improvements

7 — GET READY FOR SIA SCRUTINY Could we demonstrate that we have taken reasonable steps?

If the SIA walked through the door tomorrow, could we explain:



WHAT we have done	WHY we have done it	WHAT RISK it addresses	HOW it reduces that risk
WHEN we last tested or reviewed it			

Five things to remember

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| 01 | It is law | Royal Assent was given on 3 April 2025. |
| 02 | Not in force yet | Current expectation: spring 2027; exact date TBC. |
| 03 | Know your sites | Scope, tier and Responsible Person are the starting point. |
| 04 | Be proportionate | The test is what is reasonably practicable. |
| 05 | Prepare people | A written plan is only useful if staff can act on it. |

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Where to get help - for free

PROTECTUK

Free protective-security advice, Martyn's Law explainers, videos, resources, FAQs and practical materials.

protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law

GOV.UK / HOME OFFICE

Statutory guidance and the authoritative explanation of the legal requirements.

gov.uk • search "Martyn's Law statutory guidance"

SIA

Regulatory guidance, notification arrangements, implementation updates and future compliance activity.

gov.uk/sia • Martyn's Law updates



Start with the official sources. Be cautious about third-party providers selling compliance packages

Reference and sources

GOV.UK - Understanding Martyn's Law and the SIA's role as regulator (updated 2026)

GOV.UK - Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: Statutory guidance (updated 25 Aug 2026)

ProtectUK - Martyn's Law: scope, standard tier, enhanced tier, responsible person, FAQs and resources

SIA - Strategic Plan 2026–2029 / Martyn's Law regulatory preparation

Current position checked October 2026.

Always use the latest official guidance before making compliance decisions.

OVER TO YOU

Questions & discussion

WHAT DOES MARTYN'S LAW MEAN FOR YOUR ORGANISATION?

ARE WE IN SCOPE?

Which sites / events?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Who controls them?

WHAT DO WE NEED TO CHANGE?

What can we improve now?

For more information, please contact info@biscon.co.uk



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LinkedIn

The session generated excellent discussion and a wide range of practical questions:

Questions & Answers

→ Are universities in scope?

Yes. Higher Education institutions are assessed against the normal thresholds and may fall within the Enhanced Tier if 800+ people are reasonably expected to be present.

→ Are hospitals covered?

Likely yes, due to their public accessibility and significant footfall, although further guidance is expected.

→ Is it based on venue capacity or attendance?

Attendance. The threshold is based on the number of people *reasonably expected to be present at the same time*, not maximum capacity.

→ Do schools fall within the Enhanced Tier?

No. Schools remain within the Standard Tier regardless of pupil numbers.

→ Do organisations need to notify the SIA for every event?

No. Notification relates to the qualifying premises and responsible person, not every individual event.

→ Do neighbouring businesses need to be informed of security plans?

No legal requirement exists, but collaboration is considered good practice.

→ Can responsibility be delegated to security providers or consultants?

No. Tasks can be delegated, but legal responsibility remains with the organisation responsible for the premises.

→ Are multi-occupancy office buildings in scope?

Generally, no, unless they host qualifying public events.

→ What about open-air events and community celebrations?

Many open public events without controlled entry points may fall outside scope, but security considerations should still be assessed proportionately.

→ If a venue is normally below the threshold but hosts a large event, does Martyn's Law apply?

Potentially yes, depending on whether the event meets the qualifying event criteria.

→ Who is responsible when a venue is hired out?

Responsibility depends on who has control of the premises and event arrangements and should be clearly defined.

→ Has the SIA published the notification process?

Not at the time of the webinar. Further guidance is expected before implementation.

→ Does Martyn's Law apply across the UK?

Yes, it applies to the whole of the United Kingdom.

Disclaimer: These responses reflect the discussion and understanding at the time of the webinar and should not be considered legal advice. Organisations should refer to guidance published by the SIA, ProtectUK and the UK Government as it becomes available.

Attendee Feedback

- 💬 *"Really informative and loved the focus on a practical, pragmatic approach."*
- 💬 *"Very useful and informative."*
- 💬 *"Clear and easy to understand."*
- 💬 *"It has helped clarify what organisations should be doing now rather than waiting until 2027."*
- 💬 *"Thought-provoking presentation."*
- 💬 *"Thought-provoking presentation with useful examples of how the legislation may apply in practice."*
- 💬 *"A good balance between the legal requirements and what organisations can realistically do now."*
- 💬 *"Lots of valuable guidance and reassurance around proportionality."*
- 💬 *"The examples helped bring the requirements to life."*
- 💬 *"Useful explanation of the differences between Standard and Enhanced Tier."*
- 💬 *"Really practical, pragmatic and informative."*
- 💬 *"The practical implementation advice was particularly useful."*
- 💬 *"Would welcome a follow-up session focusing on implementation and compliance."*