

Martyn's Law: what small venues need to know

A plain-English summary for venue owners, managers, hall committees and the councils and groups who support them.

1 What it is

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 is known as Martyn's Law, after Martyn Hett, one of the 22 people killed in the Manchester Arena attack in 2017.

It asks public venues to be ready to keep people safe if an attack happened nearby or inside.

When: the government expects the duties to start in spring 2027. The date hasn't been confirmed and will be announced in advance.

2 Is my venue in scope?

It covers buildings used for the purposes the Act lists, such as shops, pubs, cafés, restaurants, halls, community centres, places of worship, attractions, hotels, sports grounds, libraries and schools.

Then it comes down to one number: **the most people you can reasonably expect there at the same time**, counting staff and volunteers. Think of your busiest regular days, not one unusual event.

Under 200

The Act does not apply

200 to 799

Standard tier: the duties below

800 or more

Enhanced tier: further duties

Places of worship, childcare, schools and further education colleges stay in the standard tier at any size.

3 What the standard tier asks

- **Tell the regulator**, the Security Industry Authority (SIA), about your premises. It will run a free online service.
- **Have four simple procedures**, as far as is reasonably practicable.
- **Make sure your staff or volunteers know them.**

It's about procedures and people, not building work. A senior volunteer briefing the others is enough; nobody needs a paid course.

4 The four procedures

Evacuation

Getting everyone out quickly and safely, when it's safer outside.

Invacuation

Bringing people inside to a safer place, when the danger is outside.

Lockdown

Stopping people getting in or out and keeping everyone safe.

Communication

How you warn staff and the public, and who calls 999.

5 Simple steps to take now

- 1 Work out your number and write down how you got it, for example from your fire risk assessment, licence or bookings.
- 2 Write the four procedures down, short and in plain words.
- 3 Brief your team and run a five-minute practice.
- 4 Keep a note of who was briefed and when.
- 5 If you hire out your space, tell hirers about your procedures.

6 Where to check

Official guidance: search gov.uk for "Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 statutory guidance".

Free training and advice: ProtectUK, protectuk.police.uk

The regulator: the Security Industry Authority, sia.homeoffice.gov.uk



This leaflet is from **TeamTold**, a phone app that helps small venues write these procedures, share them with every member of staff and keep a record of briefings and drills. Scan the code for a free four-question check of whether the law is likely to apply to you, or visit teamtold.co.uk.

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