

Martyn's Law to ensure stronger protections against terrorism in public places

The UK's resilience to terrorism is to be stepped up. On Tuesday 7 Nov 2023, the King's Speech announced The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill – known as Martyn's Law in tribute of Martyn Hett, who was killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017.– is set to become law.

The new Duty to Protect will require venues to take steps to improve public safety, with measures dependent on the size of the venue and or the event taking place.

Martyn's Law will ensure that security preparedness is delivered consistently across the UK, ensuring better protection of the public.

Martyn's Law will follow a tiered model linked to activity that takes place at a location and its capacity aimed to prevent undue burden on businesses.

A standard tier will apply to locations with a maximum capacity of over 100 which can undertake low-cost, simple yet effective activities to improve preparedness. This will include training, information sharing and completion of a preparedness plan to embed practices, such as locking doors to delay attackers progress or knowledge on lifesaving treatments that can be administered by staff whilst awaiting emergency services.

An enhanced tier will focus on high-capacity locations in recognition of the potential consequences of a successful attack. Locations with a capacity of over 800 people at any time, will additionally be required to undertake a risk assessment to inform the development and implementation of a thorough security plan. Subsequent measures could include developing a vigilance and security culture, implementation of physical measures like CCTV or new systems and processes to enable better consideration of security.

The government will establish an inspection and enforcement regime, promoting compliance and positive cultural change and issuing credible and fair sanctions for serious breaches.

Dedicated statutory guidance and bespoke support will be provided by the government to ensure those in scope can effectively discharge their responsibilities, with even small venues also able to benefit from this and take voluntary action. Expert advice, free training and guidance is also already available on the online protective security hub, ProtectUK.

Martyn's Law will extend to and apply across the whole of the United Kingdom and the government will publish draft legislation in the early spring to ensure the law stands the test of time.

The joint NALC/SLCC Martyn's Law steering group have been advised by the government that it will imminently be issuing a short 6 week consultation on Martyn's Law. The advice from NALC is that Councils should have responding to this consultation ready on their agenda in case the consultation is released between the notice of the agenda being sent out and the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For the purposes of this meeting the recommendations are that:

1. The council makes itself aware about the impending legislation and that it starts to identify which events and locations that this legislation may affect within our parish and familiarises itself with the details of the Duty to Protect.
2. The council agree to have Martyn's Law as a rolling agenda item ready for responding to the impending consultation.

Further info:

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/19/martyns-law-factsheet/>

<https://www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk/training-events/webinars/dorset-council-safety-advisory-group-sag?highlight=WyJtYXJ0eW4ncyIsImxhdyJd>

In this second info, Ian Carter of Dorset Council describes Martyn's Law within his talk about the role of the Dorset Council Safety Advisory Group (SAG).

Prepared by Cllr J. Parish – 2/2/24