



Llais Cyngorau Cymuned a Thref yng Nghymru
The Voice of Community and Town Councils in Wales

Practice Development Note 23

“Martyn’s Law”

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OVW Practice Development Note 23

“Martyn’s Law”

Key Provisions for Community and Town Councils:

This note contains general information to allow Councils to carry out their functions and responsibilities. Councils should approach their One Voice Wales Development Officer for additional or specific advice.

We encourage Clerks to share this information with Members.

Action	Purpose: What Councils can do.	Timescale	At-a-glance timescale
1. Introduction: Scope of the duty			

1.1 The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, will require certain public premises and events to be prepared and ready to keep the public safe in a terrorist attack. The Act applies to England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland and establishes a minimum legal security standard of protective security at larger premises and events for the first time.	Failure to comply with the law can result in fines or penalties. Regular inspections and checks will be conducted to ensure venues are following the correct procedures and safeguarding the public. Understand the risk of attack terrorists, threat levels, and the steps you need to take.	With the legislation not expected to come into force until spring 2027, the government has built in a 24-month implementation period to give Councils and businesses time to prepare.	Spring 2027 (but start to prepare now!)
1.2 The duty applies to public venues with a capacity of 200 people or more, including those that host events or activities regularly, such as sports venues, concert halls, and community spaces.			
1.3 Councils should assess whether venues within their jurisdiction fall under this definition.			

1.4 Small venues (with under 100 capacity) may not be subject to the full duties, but best practice guidance and support will still be available for smaller venues.	Premises that can reasonably expect fewer than 200 people are not within scope of the Act, provided the following have been considered: Premises will only be qualifying premises if it is reasonable to expect that from time to time 200 or more individuals may be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time in connection with one or more uses specified in Schedule 1 to the Act. Premises will not be in scope of the Act if the greatest number of individuals expected to be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, is 199 or fewer. The reasonable expectation of individuals present may		
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	change over time. It is therefore possible for the premises to move from one tier to another or out of scope of the Act entirely based on how many individuals it is reasonable to expect will be present at the same time, from time to time.		
1.5 An event or venue hosting 200 people would be covered by the Protect Duty if it takes place at a location with a capacity of 100 or more.	The organisers of the event must carry out a terrorism risk assessment, implement appropriate security measures, and ensure appropriate staff are trained to respond and take the lead in relation to any threats. The requirement is based on the number of people attending at any given time, not necessarily the venue's total capacity. So, if 200 people are expected at a specific event, the venue would need to comply with the duty. (Standard Tier: 200 – 799 people.)		

	Similarly, events with 800 people would fall under the scope of Martyn's Law.(Enhanced Tier) Given the larger attendance, higher security measures would likely be required, such as additional crowd control, security personnel, and possibly more advanced screening (e.g., bag checks, metal detectors). A more thorough risk assessment would be needed, reflecting the increased potential for impact if an attack were to occur.		
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2. Risk assessment and emergency planning			

2.1 Councils and local venue managers will need to conduct regular terrorism risk assessments to identify vulnerabilities in public places and events.	Start assessing which public venues in your community might be impacted by Martyn's Law, and begin reviewing security measures and procedures.		
2.2 This includes assessing how the venue can be targeted and ensuring preventive measures are in place, such as physical security and access control.			
2.3 Councils will need to incorporate terrorism risk into their emergency planning and ensure that emergency services are well-coordinated and equipped to respond to any incidents.	Do you know what the current level of threat is in the UK? Does your workplace inform you of changes to the likelihood of an attack? What safeguards are in place to ensure that risk assessments and preparedness plans are regularly reviewed in line with threat levels?		

	Are there clear responsibilities in your workplace for monitoring UK threat levels?		
2.3 Make sure that job descriptions clearly indicate who has responsibility for such matters. The dedicated health and safety officer may not be the Clerk.			

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3. Protective measures			
3.1 Venues will need to have a set of measures in place to mitigate risks, which may include:			

Staff training in spotting suspicious behaviour. Clear evacuation procedures. The installation of safety measures like metal detectors or bag searches. The creation of a security plan and procedures for responding to threats or attacks. As far as reasonably practicable, appropriate public protection measures.			
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4. Training & Awareness			
4.1 Councils must ensure staff and volunteers are trained in counter-terrorism measures.			

	Organise training for local venue staff, community centres, and volunteers to ensure they understand the threat of terrorism and know how to respond.		
4.2 This includes understanding the threat of terrorism, knowing how to report suspicious activity, and how to react in an emergency.			
4.3 Training opportunities and other learning opportunities are likely to be available through the UK Government and local authorities to assist Councils in meeting this requirement.			

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5. Public communication			
5.1 Councils should provide clear communication to the public about the safety measures in place, including signs or public statements about security measures and emergency procedures.	Engage with local police, emergency services, and counter-terrorism units to coordinate security measures and training efforts. Prepare to communicate the changes to local residents and businesses, ensuring that there is clarity on how safety measures will be enhanced.		

By taking these steps, Community and Town Councils can play a crucial role in safeguarding public spaces and ensuring the safety of citizens under Martyn's Law.

Resources for Councils:

- **UK Government Website:** [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025: factsheets - GOV.UK](#)

The above site includes the historical context to the legislation, helpful information, and guidance.

See also [Martyn's Law: the SIA's new regulatory role - GOV.UK](#) and other videos available on YouTube etc.

- **National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO):**

NaCTSO provides specific advice for councils and public venues on preparing for and responding to terrorism threats.

- **Local Police and Counter-Terrorism Units:**

A good opportunity for collaboration on security assessments and advice.

- **Finally...**

This Note introduces the basic features of Martyn's Law. We have also included information on Martyn's law into our [Health and Safety training](#).

One Voice Wales encourages Councils to undertake more detailed training to help understand their responsibilities.

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