

WCCTV

What is Martyn's Law? A Guide to Event Security Compliance

What is Martyn's Law?

Also referred to as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, Martyn's Law is a recent piece of legislation to be enacted in the UK.

Its aim is to enhance public security at specified venues and public spaces to help prepare and protect against acts of terrorism, like what was faced in 2017 with the Manchester Arena attack.

Following this consideration, organisations are to take appropriate steps under the Law to better their security against acts of terrorism. This focuses heavily on larger premises and events.

Essentially, those expected to be compliant with the Law are encouraged to consider their response to terrorism and the potential threat this could place towards their event or public space.

The Act provides guidance on the relevant steps organisations should take to protect themselves against terrorism and improve the public safety provided to employees and attendees.



Who Must be Compliant With Martyn's Law?

Martyn's Law utilises a tiered approach based on the number of individuals expected to be present at the premise or event at one time.

There are two tiers:

Standard Tier:

This represents venues expecting between 200 to 799 individuals. Most mid-size venues will fall into this category including restaurants, shops and moderate events spaces.

Enhanced Tier:

This represents venues expecting 800 or more individuals where there are greater risks due to crowd sizes. This covers large venues with often higher footfall expected like arenas, sporting events and large shopping centres.

Standard Tier

To understand whether your premises or organisation will need to comply with this Law under the Standard tier will be dependent on if you are classified as being within the scope of the following set of requirements, in addition to the statement above:

- There is at least one building or the premises is within a building
- The premises is used mostly or solely for one or more of the uses set out in the Act - Some of which include retail, entertainment, sports, restaurants and bars, hotels and attraction centres
- The event or premises is not excluded under the Act

This includes:



Restaurants



Shops



Mid-Sized Events



Entertainment

Enhanced Tier

The Enhanced tier represents organisations and premises expected to pose greater risks to public safety and terrorism, and due to this, there is additional criteria in which they would need to fall within:

- The premises is accessible to the public for the purpose of the event
- There are measures in place to check the entry conditions are met, which includes ticket or wristband checks
- The event or premises - including any open areas such as parks or public spaces that do not contain buildings - are not classified as 'enhanced duty premises' under the Act, nor are they exempt or excluded.

This includes:



Restaurants



Sports Arenas

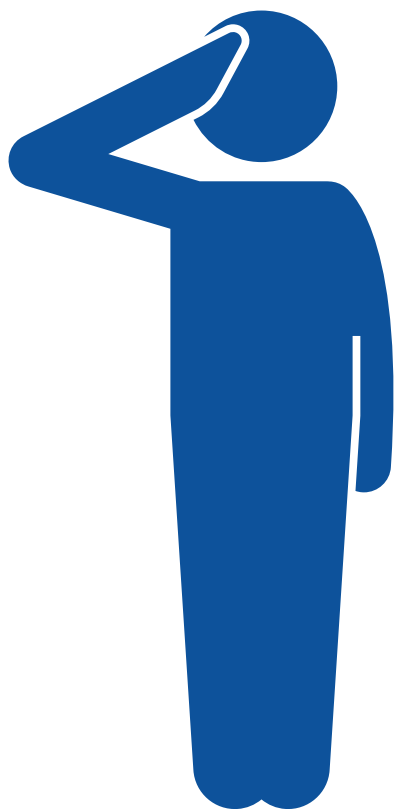


Political Events



Business Expos

Who is Responsible for Compliance?



For **premises that fall within the scope of qualification**, the responsible person will be that of the person who is in control of the premises in connection to the purpose of it, for example retail or entertainment.

Where there are multiple connections, the person responsible will be that of who is in control of the premises where their connection is the principal use for it.

Whereas for **events that fall within the scope of qualification**, the responsible person is considered to be the person who has control of the premises where the event is being held. However, the circumstances will need to be considered when determining who is responsible.

For example, if a festival takes over a park for its event, the organising company would be responsible under Martyn's Law.

How to be Compliant With Martyn's Law

To help you plan for the future, we have outlined 5 key steps your organisation should take to ensure you are compliant with Martyn's Law, now and in readiness for the future:

1

Research and Understand Martyn's Law Relating to You

2

Review your Current Security Protocols and Complete an Audit

3

Complete a Risk Assessment and Seek Professional Support

4

Document Any Public Protection Measures

5

Enhance Your Security Measures to Comply With Martyn's Law

Understand Martyn's Law for Your Organisation

The first step towards Martyn's Law compliance is to understand whether it is relevant to your organisation.

To do this, you need to review the criteria set out in the Act against your event and/or premises. If you find that you fall into one of the tiers, this means that your organisation is expected to be compliant to Martyn's Law.

Each tier will have its own safety and security regulations that you will need to uphold in order to mitigate risk presented to your event or premises.

For the Enhanced tier, the rules will often be stricter due to the larger crowd capacity, however, smaller businesses will still have expectations to uphold.



Audit Your Current Security Protocols

Once you've confirmed if your company falls under Martyn's Law, the next step is to complete a review on your current security protocols and complete a full audit to establish if your existing security measures match the requirements.

Below outlines the areas a comprehensive security audit should be completed:

- **Risk assessment measures** - How do you risk assess your premises or event?
- **Employee training and policies** - What training do your employees receive?
- **Physical security resources** - What physical security protocols have you currently got in place?
- **Access control provisions** - What access control do you have in place? And how do you monitor access?
- **Technological security procedures** - How are you monitoring your security?

For many organisations, they will have the same security procedures and strategies in place that they have had for a long period of time. This means that those protocols may be out-of-date or not fit for purpose anymore.

A thorough audit can help those responsible under the Act gain clarity on how well the current measures work and if they meet the criteria set.

Evaluate Risks and Consult Professionals

Following an audit, you will need to complete a security risk assessment of your premises or event. Ideally, this will be completed by an external body, so that there is a fresh pair of eyes reviewing it.

You have likely completed a risk assessment before as event organisers and premises owners as they are often mandatory, however, it's vital that you upkeep these on a regular basis to ensure you are not neglecting certain areas or missing new dangers.

Once this is completed, you should document this and store this safely.

The aim of a risk assessment is not only to uncover risks, gaps or areas of concern, but also establish the threat level to your premises or event. This includes the likelihood of particular risks and the predicted occurrence level.

From here, you can begin to form the public protection measures you require, which is a key area under Martyn's Law.



Document Any Public Protection Measures

For both the Standard and Enhanced tier, you are expected to have appropriate public protection procedures in place.

However, for the advanced tier, you will be expected to document the public protection procedures and measures in place or that are being proposed.

This is to include the measures being put in place or already in place for the event or premises and an assessment of the public protection procedures and measures you have included or proposed to help reduce vulnerability and/or risk of harm.

By documenting this, the regulatory body is able to review your process and ensure you're remaining compliant with Martyn's Law.

Non-compliance can lead to financial penalties, with a maximum fine of up to £10,000 for Standard tier companies and up to £18 million or 5% of worldwide turnover for Enhanced tier companies.

Standard

£10,000

Enhanced

£18 million or 5%

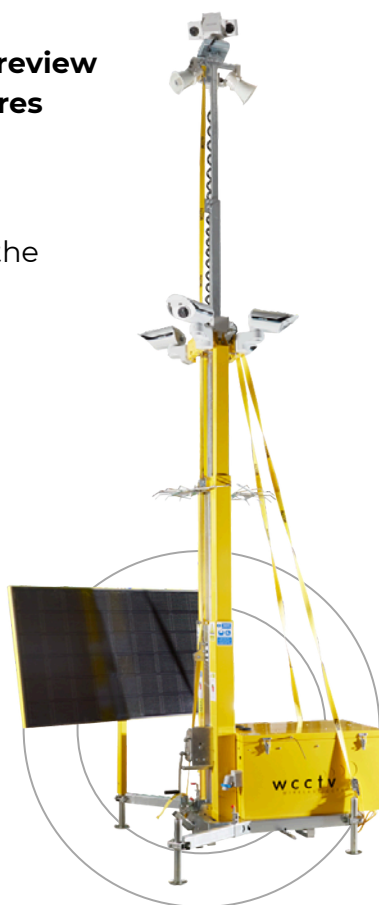
Strengthen Security to Meet Martyn's Law

Following all the relevant assessments, you need to review any proposed improvements to your security measures and implement them within your premises or event.

This could be staggered or completed immediately depending on what is best for both your business and the public's safety.

You should ensure that any enhancements made, that the security companies you're working with are knowledgeable with Martyn's Law and their measures would align with the regulations set out in the Act.

The main aim is to improve public safety and protect against terrorism, so research into the security companies and their offerings. Whether it is implementing stronger perimeter fencing or installing new mobile CCTV systems, you need to be confident that they support your needs.



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