


Martyn's Law: Implications for public authorities

11 April 2025  Lydia French

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law received Royal Assent on 3 April 2025.

It is anticipated that it will be at least 24 months before it comes into force.

The Inquiry following the Manchester Arena bombing in 2017, called for the Government to legislate to ensure stronger and more consistent measures were put in place to protect the public against potential terrorist attacks.

Scope, responsibilities and preparation

The Act places legal responsibility on venues, events and public spaces where 200 people or more are present, to prepare for potential terrorist attacks and have measures in place to help keep people safe should an attack occur. There is an enhanced requirement for larger premises and events with 800 people or more, to take steps to reduce their risk of terrorism.

Whilst there is no legal requirement to comply with the legislation until it comes into force, those who fall within the scope of the Act will want to consider the requirements. The Government is to produce guidance in the coming months to assist those who are impacted to understand their obligations and implement the requirements.

Impact on public authorities

This law will impact public authorities who manage public spaces, venues and events.

They are required to significantly enhance their preparedness and protective measures against potential terrorist attacks. Public protection measures may involve:

- staff training,
- development of plans in the event of a terrorist attack, and
- policy changes.

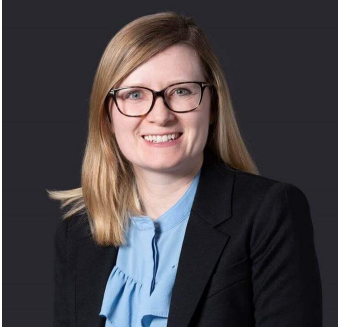
Where the enhanced requirement applies this could involve significant investments in security infrastructure which could include CCTV and vehicle checks.

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) will oversee compliance with the Act and local authorities and public bodies will need to engage with the SIA to ensure they meet the legislative requirements. This will include:

- preparing for inspections,
- adhering to advice, and
- potentially facing enforcement actions for non-compliance.

It will be necessary to balance the financial implications of the required security enhancements with the need to provide safe environments for the public and staff.

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