

Report to Licensing & Public Protection Committee

25 August 2026



Martyn's Law Update

Lead Member:

Cllr Vanessa Renshaw – Housing and Public Protection

Lead Officer:

Nesta Barker – Service Director – Regulatory Services

Key Decision: No

Ward(s): All

Appendices:

Appendix A – Martyn's Law Premises Infographic

Appendix B - Martyn's Law Events Infographic

Report Assurance:

	Name	Date
Lead Officer	Nesta Barker	13/08/26
Committee Chair	Simon Kasperowicz	13/08/26

Report Summary

This report is to update Members of the Committee of the progress of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, more commonly known as 'Martyn's Law', and the implications it may have on premises and events within the Borough, and nationally.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

Note the contents of the report.

1. Background

- 1.1. On 22nd May 2017 twenty-two individuals were murdered and hundreds injured when a terrorist's bomb exploded at Manchester Arena at the end of an Ariana Grande concert.
- 1.2. In 2019 the Government established a statutory public inquiry into the incident which was chaired by Hon Sir John Saunders to identify what lessons could be learned from this tragedy and how better to protect the nation from future attacks. Between 2021 and 2023 Hon Sir John Saunders published three reports covering the: 1) Security for the Arena; 2) Emergency Response; and 3) Radicalisation and Preventability.
- 1.3. One of the main recommendations was for new legislation to ensure operators undertake responsibilities, as far as practicable, to safeguard their premises and events from terrorist activities and prepare for what actions they would take in the event of an attack.
- 1.4. The legislation, the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (the Act), received Royal Assent on 3rd April 2025, and came with a lead in period of 'at least' two years, meaning that the Act is likely to take effect from April 2027. The Act covers which premises and events 'qualify' for requiring to undertake further actions, who the responsible persons are for taking these actions, confirms the regulator as the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and their powers to enforce the Act, including the offences, and penalties for non-compliance. It is important to note that this is not restricted to premises and events that hold licensable activities. Subject to exemptions it applies to all publicly accessible premises and events.
- 1.5. The Act also sets out an amendment to the Licensing Act 2003 in relation to the details required in plans provided as part of licence applications. Once this element is commenced operators will be required to provide two plans with each application. One with all the details of security measures, evacuation routes, CCTV cameras etc which will only be for the licensing and responsible authorities, and a second publicly available plan, without that detail included.
- 1.6. Whilst the Act has received Royal Assent much of the detail will be set out in Regulations which have not yet been published. However the Home Office and SIA have set out statutory guidance about the purpose of the Act, their roles and responsibilities and how operators will be expected to comply. The Institute of Licensing (IoL) have also published non-statutory guidance to support the licensed industry.
- 1.7. Premises and events will either be exempt from the requirements or fall into the 'standard' or 'enhanced' tier of responsibilities. Generally, if a premises has a capacity of less than 200 persons they will fall out of scope and be exempt, they will fall into the 'standard' tier of their capacity is 200-799 persons, or the

'enhanced' tier if the capacity is 800 persons or greater. For events there is only the 'enhanced' tier and therefore only becomes in scope if the capacity is 800 persons or greater. However, there are numerous exemptions, even when a premises or event may otherwise fall into scope.

- 1.8. When the Act comes into force all premises and events in scope will have to be notified to the SIA. The responsible persons for standard tier premises will have to have in place appropriate public protection procedures that relate to:
 - (a) evacuation - getting people away from danger by moving them out of the premises or event (or part of the premises or event);
 - (b) invacuation - moving people away from danger to a place within the premises or event where there is less risk of physical harm being caused to them;
 - (c) lockdown - securing the premises or event to prevent individuals entering or leaving; and
 - (d) communication - ensuring information is provided to individuals at the premises or event.

For enhanced premises and events, in addition to the above they must also consider:

- (e) monitoring – the monitoring of the premises or event, and the immediate vicinity (using tools like CCTV);
 - (f) movement – the movement of individuals into, out of and within the premises or event;
 - (g) physical security – the physical safety and security of the premises, or the premises at which the event is to be held; and
 - (h) security of information – ensuring the security of information about the premises, their operation, design, usage or internal workings are not widely available and accessible to those who may use it to plan a terrorist attack.
- 1.9. The Home Office Guidance provides decision trees to aid in determining whether a premises or event are in scope of the Act, and if so, which tier they fall into. They are also available along with other resources on the Protect UK website. The decision tree for which premises are in scope is attached as **Appendix A**, and for events is attached as **Appendix B**. The Home Office Guidance also outlines what responsible persons can be doing now to prepare for the implementation of the Act.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to bring Maryn's Law to the attention of Member of the Committee. Many licensed premises and events will fall into scope of the Act and be required to undertake additional responsibilities in relation to protecting persons attending that setting.

3. Strategic Approach

- 3.1. The Council, whilst not a regulator for the Act, will be involved with premises and events that are in scope. The ethos of the Act underpins that public protection is a key principle in the operation of premises and events to which the public have access to. It is likely that the Council will hold assets that have larger capacity limits and on/in which events are held, in which case will require a nominated responsible person and requirements of the Act to be met.

- 3.2. The purpose of bringing the matter to Members attention is to provide a wider understanding of the Act, as it is likely that matters and applications will come before the Committee and Sub-Committee that relate to relevant premises and events that are in scope of the Act.

4. Finance & Resources

- 4.1. As Licensing Authorities are not the regulator it is anticipated that there will be very low resource implications. Any requests for information and advice are likely to be signposting to the relevant bodies and resources.

5. Legal & Governance

- 5.1. The Act applies to the whole of England and as such will cover all premises and events (in scope and not exempt) within the Borough. It is not thought that the Council will have any statutory duties under the Act, other than for licence application plans and therefore does not require any amendments to governance arrangements.

6. Supporting Information

- 6.1. [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025](#)
- 6.2. [Manchester Arena Inquiry](#)
- 6.3. [Home Office Statutory Guidance](#)
- 6.4. [Security Industry Authority Statutory Guidance](#)
- 6.5. [Institute of Licensing Guidance](#)
- 6.6. [Protect UK Martyn's Law resources](#)