

MARTYN'S LAW

A BRIEF EXPLANATION



The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, otherwise known as Martyn's Law, is currently in its implementation period and is expected to become enforceable in April 2027. The Government has recently published further guidance and clarity regarding issues such as the types of premises and events that fall into the scope of the Act, providing clear examples, outlining in greater detail the role and powers of the Regulator, and clarifying the responsibilities of those duty holders within premises and events around their preparedness and proportionate security measures in the event of a terrorist attack.

There are 4 public protection procedures covered by the legislation:

EVACUATION – moving people out of the premises

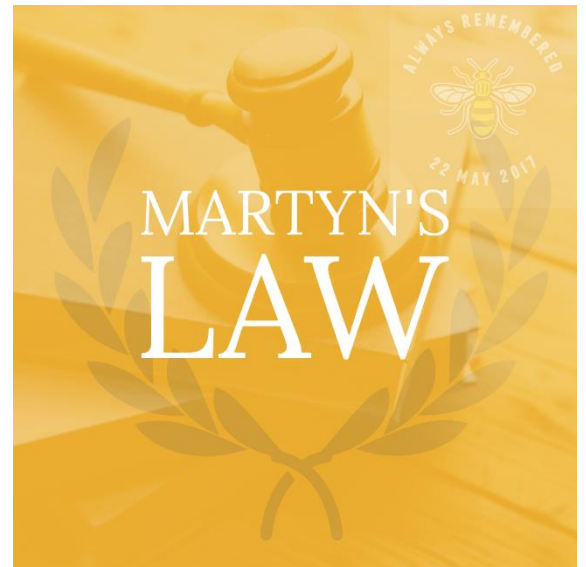
INVACUATION – moving people away to a place with less risk of physical harm

LOCKDOWN – the process of securing premises to prevent individuals entering or leaving a building

COMMUNICATION – getting the message out to all patrons in a clear and unambiguous manner

The aim of Martyn's Law

The aim of Martyn's Law is to improve the safety and security of public venues and keep the public safe from terrorism. The driving force behind the legislation is Figen Murray, the mother of Martyn Hett who was tragically killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017. Martyn's Law legislation will apply across England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.



The Law will apply to all public venues with a capacity for 200 or more people and is split into two tiers. The STANDARD tier covers venues with a capacity for 200 – 799 individuals and the ENHANCED tier covers venues with 800+ capacity.. Apart from the capacity, premises that fall within the scope of the new legislation must be accessible to the public and used for a purpose listed in the Act such as entertainment, retail, leisure etc. and will include schools, music venues, hospitals, theatres, museums, offices and department stores to name but a few. Provision has been made for temporary event spaces such as festivals.

For Standard tier premises, the emphasis is on practical and accessible steps to improve awareness, readiness and basic response capability. Enhanced tier premises require more detailed planning and consideration of additional protective measures.

It should be noted that all schools and places of worship will be placed within the Standard Tier regardless of their capacity.

Martyn's Law and LOCKDOWN

Lockdown procedures covered by Martyn's Law focus on securing entry and exit points to a building and ensuring that any alert to lockdown is clear and unambiguous.

There are different types of lockdown to consider and each requires clear procedures:

FULL LOCKDOWN prevents people entering or exiting the premises.

PARTIAL LOCKDOWN involves only locking certain entry and exit points whilst keeping others operational.

ZONAL LOCKDOWN where specific pre-designated areas are locked down within the premises.

Part of any lockdown procedure is clear communication to ensure information is unambiguous and rapid with such messaging central to a venue's preparedness for a terrorist attack.

The role of the Security Industry Authority (SIA)



A Government Regulator has been established through a new function of the SIA. The recent release of Section 27 of the Act outlines the powers that the SIA will have when the current implementation period

ends in April 2027. They can, for example, send an authorised inspector to make enquiries regarding compliance within enhanced tier premises with 72 hours' notice. They can also apply for warrants to enter such premises. Compliance notices can be issued to the premise's responsible person if there are grounds to believe there is non-compliance and restriction notices can also be applied to enhanced premises.

Fines for non-compliance

All venues, whether STANDARD or ENHANCED must notify the SIA of their responsible person and must keep them informed of any changes.

Penalty notices can be issued to enhanced tier premises if there is no appropriate protection procedure in place and providing documentation of such compliance. Whilst there is no legal requirement for standard tier venues to prepare documentation stating procedures and assessment of how they can reduce risk in the event of a terrorist attack, it is highly recommended that a document is prepared so it can be communicated to staff for training. Templates will be made available for this.

If a person fails to comply with a notice requiring them to attend an interview, the maximum fine is £5000. The maximum non-compliance penalty for other contraventions is £10,000 for standard tier premises and £18 million or 5% of worldwide revenue. Daily penalties may also apply with a maximum of £500 for

standard tier and £50,000 for enhanced tier. The SIA also has the power to enforce prosecutions in the most serious cases.

The Alertex solution



Alertex is a range of wireless flashing beacons, sounders and wireless speakers that form an interconnecting mesh network across a site. When one unit is triggered, it will activate all other units on the same site and within range.

Units can be triggered from a call point, key fob or remotely from a central location using the Alertex web portal and IP Bridge. The system is fully standalone and requires no wires or cabling. Units are fitted with a relay output to connect to third party access control if required and batteries last two years.

Sounder/beacons and annunciators are available and models can be mixed on a site – for example sounders on the outside of the building and voice annunciators within. Alertex provides the ability for venues to record their own lockdown message if required.

Martyn's Law sets out clear responsibilities for building owners and operators to enhance public safety and preparedness. At Alertex, we support you in meeting these responsibilities by providing a reliable alarm system that helps protect your

building, staff, and visitors in the event of an emergency. We are here to provide guidance and support as compliance nears.

Alertex – main features

Instant Lockdown Notifications – Quickly alert staff and visitors in case of a threat.

Wireless and Easy to Install – No disruptive or costly wiring required.

Enhanced Safety and Compliance – Assists with preparedness measures under Martyn's Law.

Clear Voice and Visual Alerts – Provide immediate instructions to reduce confusion and risk.

Battery Backup – Stays operational during power cuts.

Scalable Solution – Suitable for any size premises affected by the legislation and units can be added quickly and easily.

Remote Control and Monitoring – Manage and trigger alerts securely when needed.

