



Martyn's Law

You may not have heard of Martyn's Law. Unlike some frivolous 'laws' that engineers know only too well (for example, those due to Murphy and Sod), this law is only too real and is named after a young man named Martyn Hett who was killed in the Manchester Arena bombing in May, 2017. His mother is credited with driving forwards a new Act of Parliament to oblige those responsible for certain events and premises to consider how they would react in the event of a terrorist attack.

The new legislation is fully entitled 'The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025' and came into force on the 3rd April 2025. It is commonly known as 'Martyn's Law'. There is a fact sheet available for this at <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2025/04/03/martyns-law-factsheet/>.

Clubs already have a burden to manage their response to other legislation, much of which is familiar, and another is unlikely to be welcomed in our essentially amateur environment BUT it is a part of the moves made in our country and society to remind and guide those responsible for the management and operation of all events and activities likely to attract numbers of people with the attendant risk of some individuals or groups seeing an 'opportunity' for their cause. This article is to raise awareness and provide some information for club managers for research and to decide their actions.

The first aspect is to state that although the Act is now law, there is a TWO YEAR preparation period (ie until at least April 2027) for responsible people and organisations to understand their obligations and prepare their response. This is also the time being allowed to establish a new regulatory function to implement the requirements. This will be within the 'Security Industry Authority', an existing body described here <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/security-industry-authority>.

The fact sheet lays out the intentions and scope of the Act, and we recommend that clubs should become familiar with this and subsequent announcements as clarity develops. Here are some apparently important aspects that may be of interest to clubs, summarised from the fact sheet linked to above (but are no substitute for reading the full information available):

- The Act requires..... that those responsible for certain premises and events consider how they would respond to a terrorist attack. In addition to this, at certain larger premises and events, appropriate steps to reduce vulnerability to terrorist attacks must also be considered.
- The Act establishes a tiered approach, linked to the number of individuals it is reasonable to expect may be present at the same time at premises and events.
- The tiers are based on the number of people expected to be present at an event or in and around a premises. If 200 (to 799) people are expected at an event with, at least,

a single building, then this falls into the Act requirements as 'standard duty'. 'Enhanced duty' applies to events with 800 or more people that may NOT be in any building(s), and that has some sort of controlled access (eg tickets or other means) by the public ('200' and '800' means a total number of people, public, staff or otherwise). Less than 200 people at an event or in a premises appear to be outside the requirements of the Act.

- There are some exceptions to the above including events etc. that already meet other legislative requirements to deal with this risk, some public transport and freely accessible spaces or premises that are not controlled (eg a public park without restriction to access)
- The 'responsible person' is the person responsible and in control of the event for the event specifically. The following example is cited: *For example, if a concert is to be held in a park and the company putting on the event takes control of an area of the park for the purposes of that concert, the company putting on the event will be the responsible person.* (FMES comment: this may be equivalent to a club in a park allowing controlled access to an event such as a public open day).
- 'Standard duty' requires that the responsible person will be required to:
 - *notify the Security Industry Authority (SIA) of their premises; and*
 - *have in place, so far as reasonably practicable, appropriate public protection procedures.*

'Appropriate public protection procedures' seems here to include mainly what procedures are in place should an incident occur and are focused on safety of attendees during and after an incident.

- 'Enhanced duty' requires that the responsible person will additionally be required to have procedures and processes to reduce the risk of an incident happening in the first place.

FMES comment and recommendations:

The above is an awareness raising guide only and no club should act exclusively on the information presented above. It would appear that some events and premises operated by some clubs *could* fall within the parameters above (for example, track open days with many visitors, club managed exhibitions etc.) and so each club should conduct research using the information available from Government sources to understand their responsibilities under this Act, and, in view of the developing clarity of the Act, maintain a watch on the requirements.

At this stage (May 2025), there appears to be a limited amount of further information, most high-ranking search results seem to be about raising awareness using similar information to that above and in the links. It is likely that more examples may be developed to assist clubs will become available as time wears on

FMES recommends that responsible club officers familiarize themselves with the essentials as indicated above and maintain a watching brief over the forthcoming years to understand what may apply to their specific situation.

Clubs that lease facilities (a track in a public park for example) should consider any requirements being considered by their landowners or council. Some councils are embracing Martyn's Law in their on-line advice, however it seems limited at present to directing people to one or other of the links below.

If a club with a facility in a public park controls entry to less than 200 people and is therefore apparently under the minimum standard size attendance BUT has a queue formed of people waiting for entry outside the club facility (for example in a park) that make the total over 200, then this will presumably exceed the minimum standard and place a responsibility on *someone*, whether the club or the landowner or both.

As with other applicable legislation, Clubs are responsible for implementing any necessary actions that they deem appropriate to respond to legislative requirements: FMES are unable to provide specific guidance.

Useful links:

Martyn's law fact sheet:

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2025/04/03/martyns-law-factsheet/>

Security Industry Authority (SIA):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/security-industry-authority>

ProtectUK information (ProtectUK is a platform that provides freely available counter terrorism and protective security advice. It supports business, government and community organisations in the public and private sectors who are responsible for venues and public spaces):

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law/martyns-law-overview-and-what-you-need-know>

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