

MARTYN'S LAW

What venues need to know

This guide explains what Martyn's Law means for public venues, what you may need to do and how clear communication can help protect people when it matters most.

What is Martyn's Law?

Martyn's Law is the common name for the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. It applies to certain UK premises and events where 200 or more people, including staff, may be present.¹ Those responsible will need practical plans and procedures to reduce harm and help people reach safety if an attack occurs.²

The Act is named after Martyn Hett, one of 22 people killed in the Manchester Arena attack in 2017. Between March 2017 and mid 2024, the Home Office recorded 15 attacks, including Manchester, and 39 disrupted plots.⁵ With venues under no legal duty to consider the threat, campaigners including Martyn's mother, Figen Murray OBE, called for change.¹

The Security Industry Authority (SIA), which already licenses security staff, will enforce the Act. Venues in scope must notify the SIA, which can inspect premises, order improvements and issue fines of up to £10,000, or £18 million or 5% of worldwide revenue for larger venues and events. The law is expected to take effect in spring 2027, with the date still to be confirmed.³ That gives venues time to understand the requirements and prepare.

180,000

premises are expected to be in scope⁵

Spring 2027

expected start date, subject to confirmation³

200+

people, including staff, who may be on site at once⁶

Is your venue affected?

It could be. Martyn's Law applies when all four of the following are true:¹

- 1** It's a building, or part of one, that the public can enter, whether entry is free, paid or members only.
- 2** It's wholly or mainly used for one of the uses in Schedule 1 of the Act. Schedule 1 is set it out in full on the next page.
- 3** It's reasonable to expect 200 or more people on site at the same time at some point, staff included.
- 4** It isn't excluded under Schedule 2 of the Act. Schedule 2 is a short list of premises that are exempt, mostly because they're already have by their own security rules.



Which sectors are included?

Retail

Shops, banks and shopping centres

Places of worship

Where 200 or more people may attend

Healthcare and education

Hospitals, clinics, schools, colleges and universities

Sport and events

Stadia, sports grounds, conference and exhibition venues

Leisure and culture

Theatres, cinemas, gyms, nightclubs, museums, galleries, attractions

Hospitality and accommodation

Restaurants, pubs, bars, hotels, hostels, holiday parks

Transport and public services

Stations, airports, council and public authority buildings, unless other legislation applies

Examples from the Home Office statutory guidance.¹

Which tier applies?

STANDARD TIER

200 to 799 people

- Notify the **SIA**.
- Put public protection procedures in place.
- Make sure relevant staff can carry them out.⁷
- No physical changes or equipment are required.⁷

Penalties can reach £10,000, plus £500 a day if a notice is ignored.⁸

ENHANCED TIER

800+ people and qualifying events

- Meet all standard tier duties.
- Introduce measures to reduce vulnerability.
- Appoint a senior individual.
- Prepare a compliance document for the SIA.⁹

Penalties can reach £18 million or 5% of qualifying worldwide revenue, whichever is greater, plus £50,000 a day.⁸

Important: places of worship, childcare settings, schools and further education colleges remain in the standard tier, regardless of capacity.¹

The four procedures every qualifying premises needs

01

Evacuate

Get people out and away from danger.

02

Invacuate

Move people to a safer place inside.

03

Lock down

Stop people entering or leaving.

04

Communicate

Quickly tell people whether to stay put or move away.

Clear communication supports every one of these procedures. Later in this guide, we explain how our products and services can help venues share evacuation, invacuation and lockdown instructions quickly and clearly.^{7,11}

What can you do now?

You do not need to wait until the start date approaches. Acting now can spread the work, reduce disruption and help avoid unexpected costs.²

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| <p>01 Check whether you are in scope and which tier applies.</p> <hr/> <p>02 Confirm who is responsible. It's often the operator rather than the owner.</p> <hr/> <p>03 Identify your busiest times and keep the evidence.</p> | <p>04 Write the four procedures so they are easy to follow under pressure, using existing fire and lockdown plans as a starting point.¹</p> <hr/> <p>05 Brief and rehearse with the people who will carry them out, and review the plans whenever the building or team changes.⁷</p> <hr/> <p>06 Notify the SIA online within three months of the start date.¹⁰</p> |
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What happens if you do not comply?

The SIA will normally offer guidance first. If problems continue, it can inspect the venue, issue notices and apply penalties, which can be appealed.⁸ Fines can reach £10,000 for standard tier premises and £18 million or 5% of qualifying worldwide revenue for enhanced tier premises, with daily penalties of up to £50,000 for continued failure to comply. Serious breaches can lead to restrictions on the venue, criminal prosecution and personal liability for senior individuals.^{4,8}

How can we help?

In an emergency, staff must guide people while managing the same pressure and uncertainty as everyone else. Clear, visible instructions can reduce confusion and help people act quickly. This is where digital signage can make a practical difference.

Digital signage can support the emergency plan by:



Evacuating

Telling people to leave the building and directing them towards safe exits.



Invacuating

Moving people away from danger with no entry messages and clear directions, without showing where people are gathering.



Locking down

Displaying immediate instructions to stay inside, avoid specific areas or remain in place.



Communicating

Sharing consistent updates across the venue as the situation changes.

Anyone can read a public screen, including an attacker, so keep public messages general and put detail on channels only staff see or hear.

Three brands. One team behind you

Across Ten Technology Group, our three brands bring together the technology, integration and ongoing support needed to help venues build a clearer, more reliable approach to emergency communication.



Every TenAV installation starts with what your organisation is trying to achieve, not with a product list. We design and install commercial AV around those goals. We're not tied to any manufacturer, so we'll tell you honestly if the screens you already have will do the job.

Where we can add real value: audio that works with your screens. We can install audio devices across your building that align with your digital signage, so a clear, concise spoken message plays alongside what's on screen. People who aren't looking at a screen hear it. People who can't hear an announcement see it.



TenSignage controls what appears on your screens, where and when. Most of the time that's everyday content. When your procedures call for it, the same screens show approved emergency messages instead, sent only by the people you choose through single sign on and team permissions. It can run on screens you already have.

Advertising and promotions

Wayfinding

Video and media

Safety briefings

Menus

Notices and live information



Screens and audio only help if they work when it matters. TenUnify provides proactive and reactive support, preventative maintenance visits, and remote monitoring and reporting, so every device stays clear, readable and ready to do its job. Call one team and they coordinate the rest.

In use today at Urbanest. TenSignage runs the screens in Urbanest student accommodation, carrying promotions, day to day information and safety tips for residents.

"Great service from the TEN AV team. Product delivered and installed professionally and on time."

Samra, Wild Fire

None of this makes a venue compliant on its own. It makes the communication part of your plan clearer and more dependable.

NEXT STEP

Book a communication review

A conversation about how your building gets instructions to people today, and where screens and audio would help.

If they're not the answer for your site, we'll say so.

020 3397 7360

info@tenav.co.uk

tenav.co.uk/products/tensignage

Responsible use

TenSignage supports your communication procedure. It doesn't make premises compliant on its own: that responsibility stays with the responsible person for the premises. Neither the Home Office nor the SIA endorses any company's products, and the government intends that venues can comply without buying specialist services.² Screen and audio messaging depend on power and network availability, so test them and use them alongside other methods.

References

- 1 Home Office (2026). *Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: statutory guidance*.
gov.uk/government/publications/the-terrorism-protection-of-premises-act-2025
- 2 ProtectUK (n.d.). *Martyn's Law*.
protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law
- 3 Security Industry Authority (2026). *Martyn's Law: the SIA's new regulatory role*.
gov.uk/government/publications/martyns-law-the-sias-new-regulatory-role
- 4 Home Office (2025). *Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: explanatory notes*.
legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2025/10/notes
- 5 Home Office (2024). *Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: impact assessment*.
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- 6 ProtectUK (n.d.). *Martyn's Law frequently asked questions*.
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- 7 Home Office (2026). *Standard duty requirements factsheet*.
gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-act-2025-factsheets
- 8 Home Office (2026). *The regulator, sanctions and enforcement factsheet*.
gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-act-2025-factsheets
- 9 Home Office (2026). *Enhanced duty requirements factsheet*.
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- 10 Home Office (2026). *Notification requirement guidance*.
gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-act-2025-notification-requirement
- 11 National Protective Security Authority (n.d.). *Evacuation, invacuation and lockdown guidance*.
npsa.gov.uk/emergency-incident-management
- 12 Security Industry Authority (2026). *SIA's consultation on its Martyn's Law guidance closes*.
gov.uk/government/news/sias-consultation-on-its-martyns-law-guidance-closes

About this briefing. It summarises publicly available guidance as at September 2026 for general information. It isn't legal advice and doesn't replace the Home Office statutory guidance. The SIA expects to publish its final guidance later in 2026,¹² and the start date and processes may change, so check GOV.UK, the SIA and ProtectUK for the latest position. All links accessed September 2026. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

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London showroom: 17 Charterhouse Buildings, London EC1M 7AP