

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, recieved Royal Assent today and has officially become law. However, before the law is enforced, businesses will have a preparation period of at least two years. This transitional period will also allow the Security Industry Authority (SIA) to prepare for its role as the regulator, and for statutory guidance to be issued to businesses affected by the law. Below is a brief overview of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, with the full details of the Act available here: Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025

What's In Scope

Premises will be in scope if they consist of a building (including part of a building or a group of buildings) or, a building and other land and are used mainly or wholly for one or more qualifying activity. Qualifying activities are generally those which involve members of the public entering a premises for an activity such as shopping, accomodation and socialising. The premises are in scope if it reasonably expects to host 200 or more individuals at the same time, from time to time (Standard Tier - 200-799, Enhanced Tier 800+).

Events fall within scope if they are taking place in a premises defined by the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 and the event is reasonably expected to host 800 or more individuals at the same time (satisfied if the threshold is met at any point during the event). The event is in scope if it has individuals who must be present at the event to check that attendees have either paid to attend, have an invitation, or have a pass granting access. The event must also be accessible to members of the public, and not take place at a premises subject to exclusion (see below).

Standard Tier Requirements

 \cdot Notify the regulator (SIA) of their premises

 Have in place appropriate and reasonably practicable public protection procedures
(Evacuation, Invacuation, Lockdown and process of Communication) that could be expected to reduce the risk of physical harm being caused to individuals if an attack was to occur there or nearby.

Enhanced Tier and Event Requirements

 \cdot Notify the regulator (SIA) that they are responsible for their premises or event

• Have in place appropriate and reasonably practicable public protection procedures that could be expected to reduce the risk of physical harm being caused to individuals if an attack was to occur there or nearby (see the Standard Tier requirements)

 \cdot Have in place appropriate and reasonably practicable measures that could be expected to reduce both the vulnerability of the premises or event to an act of terrorism occurring, and the risk of physical harm being caused to individuals if an attack was to occur there or nearby

• Document the public protection procedures and measures in place, or proposed to be put in place, and provide this document to the SIA.

Exceptions and Exclusions

• Places of worship and buildings used for childcare or primary, secondary or further education that can be expected to host 200 or more individuals at the same time will always fall within the standard tier regardless of their maximum numbers

 \cdot Parliaments and devolved governments are excluded as they already have existing security measures in place comparable to the requirements of the law

• Parks, gardens, recreation grounds, sports grounds and other open-air premises used for recreation, exercise or leisure excluded, unless they have individuals employed or otherwise engaged to secure or check that members of the public who wish to access the premises have paid to do so or have invitations or passes allowing access are excluded

· Transport premises (that are already subject to existing legislative requirements) are excluded

• Excluded events include events held in an excluded premises or those used wholly or mainly as a place of worship, childcare or primary, secondary or further education.