

Martyn's Law (Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025)

Guidance for PCCs and Church Premises

What is Martyn's Law?

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly known as Martyn's Law, aims to improve public protection from terrorism by requiring certain premises and events to be prepared for and capable of responding to a terrorist incident. The Act establishes the Security Industry Authority (SIA) as the regulator and is currently expected to come into force in Spring 2027.

Does Martyn's Law Apply to Your Church and Church Hall?

Martyn's Law may apply if your church, church hall, or other church-related premises can reasonably expect 200 or more people to be present at the same time, from time to time. This includes:

- Members of the congregation
- Clergy
- Staff, including choir, music group etc.
- Volunteers
- Event attendees
- Contractors and visitors

The assessment should consider occasions such as:

- Christmas and Easter services
- Large funerals or weddings
- Civic services
- Concerts
- Community events
- Hall lettings
- Regular worship where attendance approaches 200 people



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The [relevant section of the legislation](#) says that the criterion will be where: 'it is reasonable to expect that from time to time 200 or more individuals may be present on the premises at the same time in connection with one or more uses specified in [Schedule 1](#).' While 'from time to time' is not defined, the Archdeacons propose that a premises might only need to reach this level of attendance once in 12 months to fall within scope.

Standard Tier and Enhanced Tier

Standard Tier (200–799 people)

Churches and places of worship that can reasonably expect 200 or more people to be present at the same time will fall within the Standard Tier.

Importantly, Government guidance confirms that places of worship remain within the Standard Tier even where attendance may exceed 800 people.

Enhanced Tier (800+ people)

Church halls or other church-owned buildings that are not places of worship may fall within the Enhanced Tier if 800 or more people can reasonably be expected to be present at the same time.

Standard Tier premises are expected to think through how the response to a terrorist situation might be managed within what is reasonably practicable for the existing venue, and train their staff and volunteers accordingly.

Identifying the Responsible Person

Each qualifying premises must have a Responsible Person.

The Responsible Person is the individual or organisation that has control of the premises for the purposes set out in the legislation. While the PCC may have overall responsibility, PCCs will need to identify a named individual who has oversight of day-to-day operations in order to include this name in the notification (see below). Where responsibilities are unclear, property and governance arrangements should be reviewed.

Notification Requirements

Once Martyn's Law comes into force, qualifying premises will need to notify the Security Industry Authority (SIA). The Government currently expects implementation to begin in Spring 2027.

Notification Timescales

Existing qualifying premises

- Must notify the SIA within 3 months of the legislation coming into force.

Premises that become qualifying later

- Must notify the SIA within 28 days.

Changes to registered information

- Changes to the Responsible Person or other required information must be notified within 28 days.

For Standard Tier premises, notification is expected to be completed through an online portal. Once the Government announces the date on which registration with the Security Industry Authority (SIA) will open, we will contact PCCs again with further information and next steps.

Public Protection Procedures (PPP)

Qualifying Standard Tier premises must consider and implement procedures covering:

1. **Evacuation**
2. **Invacuation**
3. **Lockdown**
4. **Communication**

These procedures must be reasonably practicable, proportionate, and appropriate to the particular church or premises. Those responsible for

implementing the procedures must understand their role and how the procedures would operate in practice.

Please see appendix 1 for further information.

Non-compliance with Martyn's Law

The SIA is the regulator for Martyn's Law and has powers to assess compliance, carry out inspections, and take enforcement action where organisations fail to meet their obligations. Depending on the circumstances and severity of the non-compliance, this may include compliance notices, restriction notices, financial penalties, or other regulatory action. The SIA has indicated that it intends to adopt a proportionate and supportive approach, seeking to help organisations achieve compliance before resorting to enforcement where appropriate.

For these reasons, PCCs and other responsible persons should ensure that they understand whether their church and other buildings come within the scope of Martyn's Law, complete any required notification to the SIA, and retain records demonstrating the steps they have taken to comply with the legislation.

Key Points for PCCs

- Not all churches will be affected.
- Please note in your PCC minutes your review of your church building(s) and your conclusion whether 200 or more people can reasonably be expected to be present at the same time, 'from time to time' in any of your buildings.
- Places of worship that meet the threshold will be within the Standard Tier.
- Qualifying premises will need to notify the SIA once the legislation comes into force.
- PCCs should begin considering who the Responsible Person is and how public protection procedures would operate locally.
- There is no requirement to comply with the Act until it comes into force, but early preparation is recommended.

Further Information

Government Guidance

- [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025 Factsheets](#)
- [Understanding Martyn's Law and the SIA's Role as Regulator](#)
- [Martyn's Law Collection and Guidance](#)

ProtectUK Resources

- [Martyn's Law Overview](#)
- [Martyn's Law Resources](#)

Appendix 1 - Creating A Public Protection Procedure (PPP)

The legislation recognises that one size does not fit all and so PPPs should reflect the specific nature of your venue. In developing a procedure that is reasonably practicable, proportionate, and appropriate to the particular church or premises, you may wish to begin by considering:

- The building layout, particularly exits
- The variability of attendees; children, elderly, disabled etc.
- Staff numbers and capabilities
- Areas that could be secured quickly
- Existing emergency procedures (such as fire evacuation plans)

Once you have considered the nature of your venue, assess this in the context of the four required procedure areas.

1. Evacuation

When would people need to be moved out?

Which exits would be safest?

Who directs occupants?

Where is the assembly point?

2. Invacuation

If the threat is outside, where can people be moved internally?

Which rooms provide greater protection?

How will staff direct people there?

3. Lockdown

Can doors be locked quickly?

Can access points be controlled?

Who has responsibility for initiating lockdown?

4. Communication

How will staff be alerted?

How will customers or visitors receive instructions?

Who contacts emergency services?

What backup communication methods exist?

You might find it useful to apply any potential PPP to scenarios where it would need to be used such as a suspicious package found nearby, vehicle attack outside the premises or an attacker entering the premises.

You may find it useful to consider these scenarios and ask yourself, with reference to the policy; what staff would do first, is evacuation, invacuation or



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lockdown appropriate, how people would be informed and who would call the emergency services.

Further can be found via the National Protective Security Authority guidance on creating procedures: [Evacuation, Invacuation and Lockdown Guidance | Incident Management | NPSA](#)