

MARTYN'S LAW STATUS:

Current Status (April 2025)

Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) is still going through the legislative process. It received Royal Assent on 3rd April 2025 and the government expect at least a 24 month transition period before the Act comes into force. As of now:

- There is no legal requirement to register events or venues as compliant.
 - However, the government strongly encourages venues and organisers to voluntarily adopt its principles.
 - Free tools and guidance (like ACT Awareness e-learning) are available via the ProtectUK platform.
-

What's Likely When the Law is in Force

Once Martyn's Law comes into force, for standard tier premises (capacity 100–799) like village halls and fêtes:

- You will need to show that a terrorism risk assessment has been completed.
- A named responsible person or organisation (e.g. the Parish Council, village hall committee, or event organiser) must ensure reasonable, proportionate security measures are in place.
- There may be a requirement to register certain types of public events or venues, especially those held regularly or attracting large crowds.

This might be done through a government portal or a local authority system, but no official registration system exists yet.

What You Can Do Now

- Document your risk assessment and keep it on file.
 - Include Martyn's Law in event planning paperwork, minutes, or venue hire conditions.
 - Brief volunteers/staff, and keep a record of that briefing.
 - Stay informed via:
 - [ProtectUK](#)
 - Your local authority's emergency planning or community safety officer
-

MARTYN'S LAW COMPLIANCE

To comply with Martyn's Law (also known as the Protect Duty), village organisations—such as community centres, parish councils, event organisers, and other groups responsible for public venues—need to take proportionate steps to improve security and preparedness against terrorist threats. The law is named after Martyn Hett, who was killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena attack, and aims to ensure that venues and public spaces are better prepared.

Martyn's Law is being introduced in tiers, depending on the size and nature of the venue. Here's what village organisations typically need to consider:

1. Check if You Are In Scope

Under the standard tier (which applies to most village venues):

- Premises or events are publicly accessible.
- Have a capacity of 100 to 799 people at any one time.
- Are used for activities such as entertainment, leisure, worship, or local government functions.

This could include:

- Village halls
 - Churches
 - Parish-organised events (like fairs or markets)
 - Sports pavilions
-

2. Undertake a Terrorism Risk Assessment

You'll need to:

- Identify potential threats (e.g., hostile individuals, suspicious packages).
- Assess vulnerabilities (e.g., open access points, crowd management).
- Consider the likely impact of an incident.

This doesn't need to be complex—a template or checklist approach is likely to be sufficient for smaller organisations.

3. Implement “Reasonably Practicable” Security Measures

These could include:

- Staff and volunteer training on recognising suspicious behaviour and responding to attacks.
 - Clear evacuation plans or lockdown procedures.
 - Basic security measures like bag checks at larger events or limiting access to certain areas.
 - Emergency contacts list readily available.
-

4. Keep Plans Under Review

- Update your assessment and procedures after significant events or annually.
 - Refresh training for new volunteers or after changes to the venue.
-

5. Consider Community-Wide Preparedness

- Work with the Parish Council on a coordinated approach.
 - Align plans with the Parish Emergency Plan, especially if that includes shelter locations or communications procedures.
-

MARTYN'S LAW COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

For: Village Hall, Church and Fete Events

1. CHECK IF YOU ARE IN SCOPE

Requirement	Village Event
Publicly accessible premises/event	Yes
Capacity between 100–799 people	Likely
Used for leisure/community activity	Yes
In scope for Standard Tier	Yes

2. TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT

Task	Done?
Identify the type of activities taking place	
List all access points (gates, doors, roads, etc.)	
Identify potential threats (e.g. suspicious items, vehicles)	
Note vulnerabilities (e.g. unsecured entrances, crowding)	
Consider peak times (e.g. during a performance or raffle)	
Who is most at risk? (e.g. children, elderly)	

See list of terrorism risks in table below.

3. SECURITY MEASURES

Measures to Put in Place	Village Event
Brief staff/volunteers on basic security awareness	
Display clear signage for emergency exits	
Appoint someone to act as the lead for safety on the day	
Ensure first aid cover is present	
Prepare for crowd control (ropes, signage, stewards)	
Ensure access for emergency vehicles	
Set up a communications plan (e.g. mobile numbers, radios)	
Have a procedure for reporting suspicious behaviour/items	
Run through an evacuation/lockdown drill (even brief)	

4. EMERGENCY PLAN

Key Info to Document	Done?
Evacuation routes and assembly points	
Who will contact emergency services	
How people with disabilities will be assisted	
Who will manage crowd communication (e.g. using PA system)	
Shelter options (e.g. nearby church, school)	

5. TRAINING & AWARENESS

Task	Done?
Ensure at least one person has had ACT Awareness training	
Hold a short volunteer briefing before the event	
Provide printed cheat-sheets or lanyards with key info	
Promote a “See something, say something” culture	

ACT Awareness e-learning (free) is available via NaCTSO: <https://www.protectuk.police.uk/>

6. REVIEW & RECORD

Task	Done?
Save the risk assessment and emergency plan	
Note the date of last review	
Update the plan yearly or after an incident	

TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT TABLE

Threat Type	How It Might Present	Vulnerabilities	Mitigation Measures
Suspicious Person/Behaviour	Individual loitering, acting strangely, avoiding eye contact, asking odd questions	Open public access, limited security presence	Train volunteers to spot/report behaviour; brief team on escalation procedure
Suspicious Item/Bag	Unattended rucksack, box, or parcel left under a table, hedge, or in a toilet	Multiple entry points, lack of bag checks, limited CCTV	Encourage “see it, say it”; provide secure storage; have a response plan for evacuation
Vehicle as a Weapon (VAW)	Car/van driven toward crowd area or parked where it shouldn’t be	Open perimeter; no vehicle barriers; public roads near gathering areas	Use barriers/cones to block off pedestrian zones; steward at entrance points
IED (Improvised Explosive Device)	Concealed in bin, under stage, or left in a stall	Accessible undercrofts, unsecured storage areas	Secure storage areas; visual checks of bins and under-stage areas
Firearm/Weapon Attack	Armed person entering hall or grounds, possibly disguised	No checks at entrance; open doors	Brief volunteers on escape routes and lockdown; install door security if feasible
Hostile Reconnaissance	Individual photographing layout, security staff, or exits	No awareness of who is visiting the site pre-event	Log visitors during setup; observe and report anyone behaving unusually
Cyber Threats	Fake emails to volunteers or organisers; event promotion hacked	Public Wi-Fi or poorly protected systems	Keep personal data secure; limit admin access; use strong passwords
Insider Threat	Volunteer or contractor with malicious intent	No background knowledge of new helpers	Keep valuables secure; avoid lone working; maintain good oversight