

## **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (Martyn's Law) Fact Sheet**

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, will ensure the public are better protected from terrorism, by requiring certain public premises and events to be prepared and ready to keep people safe in the event of an attack.

Compliance with the Act is designed to be as accessible as possible. No-one should need to spend money on consultants to be compliant.

### **Church Buildings and Attached Halls**

Church buildings and attached halls which hold services and events for up to 200 people are not within the scope of the Act. However, PCCs are encouraged to take measures to mitigate against a terrorist attack.

Church buildings and attached halls which hold planned services and events that exceed 200 people are within the scope of the Act. These are classed as Standard Tier premises.

A church building is not within the scope of the Act if the only occasions on which attendance exceeds 200 people are occasional office services, such as large weddings or funerals.

Church buildings are only ever classed as Standard Tier premises – even if they hold events with over 800 people. For example, if a church is hired out for a large event with an attendance of over 800 people, it would still only count as a Standard Tier premises.

Under the Standard Tier, churches have three actions:

1. Nominate a Responsible Person who is responsible for implementing the actions outlined in the Act. For a church, this will always be the PCC.
2. Register as a Standard Tier premise with the [Security Industry Authority](#) (SIA) and inform them of the Responsible Person – registration opens in Spring 2027 (date TBC). Once registration is open, a church has three months to register. Standard Tier Premises will not need to prove compliance with the Act, only to register and nominate the Responsible Person.
3. Create a risk assessment, similar to a fire risk assessment which covers the following:
  - Evacuation – a plan for evacuating the church which indicates clear routes and assembly points for emergencies. Note, unlike a fire evacuation plan, a terrorist evacuation plan should either include several different assembly points or instructions for people to disperse away from the church. A secondary terrorist attack may be planned for a known fire assembly area. Evacuation plans should also include instructions on evacuating everyone from different parts of the church. For example, if a terrorist event is happening at the main door, there should be measures in place to evacuate from another external door.
  - Invacuation – procedures for sheltering in place if needed, including moving people within the church to a safe place and enabling people outside the church to enter the church building to find shelter.

- Lockdown – steps to secure the building during a threat. This should include measures for easy access to keys to lock the doors and the nominated people for locking down.
- Communication – ensuring staff, volunteers, and hirers know how to respond. These procedures should be documented and accessible, often via laminated cards, posters, or briefings for hirers, rather than relying on complex manuals or professional training.

Templates for this risk assessment will be available from the SIA by the end of October.

### **Detached Church Halls**

If the PCC own a church hall which is detached from the church building or on a separate site, it could also come under the Act.

- If the hall holds events attended by up to 200 people, it is not within the scope of the measure.
- If the hall holds events for 200-799 people, it is a Standard Tier premises. See above for actions relating to Standard Tier premises.
- If the hall holds events for over 800 people, it is an Enhanced Tier premises. Please see the [Protect UK](#) website for more information on how to register as an Enhanced Tier premises and the measures needed to comply with Enhanced Tier premises.

If responsibility for the hall is delegated to a board of Trustees, they will be the Responsible Person.

### **Non-compliance**

Non-compliance with the Act would initially lead to support and recommendations from the SIA to help churches comply. Further refusal to comply could lead to the SIA implementing measures against a church or church hall, including penalty notices, fines and prosecution.

### **Resources**

The [Protect UK website](#) contains a wealth of information on Martyn's Law. Ecclesiastical Insurance has a [Counter-Terrorism](#) page on their website, plus has produced a [handy guide on Martyn's Law](#).