Martyn's Law - top tips and support to help schools prepare

What is Martyn's Law?

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. This act received Royal Assent on 3 April 2025 and is now law. But what exactly does this mean for schools? Read on for tips and advice to help you get started and prepare to embed good security practices across your setting.

How does Martyn's Law impact my school?

The Act will require those responsible for certain premises and events to take steps to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce harm in the event of an attack occurring. It will affect education settings - **Early Years, primary, secondary and further education settings are considered to be 'standard tier'** duty premises under the Act.

What is the time frame?

Settings in scope will have time to prepare prior to the setup of the regulator, the Security Industry Authority (SIA). This period is expected to be approximately 24 months. So you will not be required to take immediate action until the Act enters into force but should plan and prepare for Martyn's Law requirements.

What do I need to do now?

Settings must **appoint a 'responsible person'** to ensure that the requirements are satisfied. The responsible person is the person who has control of the premises - you know your setting best and will be best placed to appoint the right person for this role. This is not necessarily a headteacher and could be someone who is already responsible for existing safeguarding health and safety protocols.

What is the role of a 'responsible' person?

The role of the 'responsible' person in the standard tier will be to:

- Notify the regulator (SIA)
- Put in place 'reasonably practicable' public protection procedures
- Focus on simple, low-cost activities surrounding policies and procedure which are to be followed by staff in the event of a terrorist attack or suspected terrorist attack occurring.
- There is no requirement to put in place physical measures in this tier.

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Martyn's Law – top tips and support to help schools prepare continued...

Help and Support:

We appreciate you will have several questions and schools may be approached by companies charging for their expertise in this area. The DfE and Home Office do not endorse any third-party products of providers but they will be working together with the regulator and publishing further guidance and resources to support you very soon. Meanwhile, here are some existing resources freely available in the interim:

- **Staff e-Learning** - consider integrating the ACT for Education e-learning to your setting's learning management system as part of staff training. You will need to contact them: DFE.PROTECTANDPREPARE@education.gov.uk, with the subject line "SCORM".
- The Home Office's Martyn's Law Factsheet and Toolkit
- Protective Security and Preparedness Guidance for education settings
- How Martyn's Law will affect education settings
- DfE Martyn's Law Factsheet
- Protect UK—Martyn's Law
- Martyn's Law overview and what you need to know | ProtectUK
- Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: Martyn's Law
- Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: Martyn's Law myth buster
- "Martyn's Law" - What you need to know
- Protect Duty Update – Martyn's Law to ensure stronger protections against terrorism in public places
- Protect Duty
- Act for Youth: RUN HIDE TELL | ProtectUK
- Evacuation, invacuation, lockdown, protected spaces | ProtectUK
- Security-Minded Communications - Guidance for Educational Settings This provides tailored guidance for educational settings in the UK, enabling settings to utilise various communications channels to deny and deter hostiles from undertaking hostile acts against their school, nursery, college or university

Useful Contacts:

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