

Martyn's Law (Protect Duty)

In December 2022, the Government announced details regarding the Protect Duty. This is now to be known as 'Martyn's Law' after Martyn Hett who was killed alongside 21 others in 2017's Manchester Arena terrorist attack.

Martyn's Law is pending UK wide legislation. It will place a requirement on those responsible for certain publicly accessible locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.

In March 2023, a presentation was given at an Association of Festival Organisers conference by Russ Philips - a counter terrorism advisor who is close to the current discussions on Martyn's Law, and who wrote the associated chapter within the Purple Guide. Following this, the council was included in the following mailshot from Jim Winship, Secretary for the Events Industry Forum Ltd (EIF):

"While there is much talk around the events industry about the implications of Martyn's Law, there remains considerable uncertainty over the extent it will be applied, and it is still likely to be some time "before anything becomes law."

"Although event organisers should always seek to do all they can to protect their staff, volunteers, and the public, there is as yet no legal requirement to apply anything proposed under 'Martyn's Law."

"NaCTSO (National Counter Terrorism Security Office) are also advising everyone not to pay money to companies offering training on a law that does not yet exist and will have many bumps along the road before it reaches Parliament."

The Events and Film Office will update this information as more details become available. However, there are things to think about in the meantime, as highlighted by the conclusion to Jim Winship's message:

“However, there is an argument for event organisers to start thinking about the issues around this area and a good starting point can be found at <https://www.protectuk.police.uk/> and its app for all mobile phones where they can stay up-to-date and start thinking about what they can do now to prevent or respond to an attack.”