

Northants CALC

Martyn's Law for Parish and Town Councils

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What is Martyn's Law?

Martyn's Law encourages public spaces to assess security risks and adopt sensible, practical precautions. It applies to venues, events, and locations where people gather—such as town halls, community centres, parks, and markets.

Why is Martyn's Law important?

While the likelihood of a security threat in smaller towns and villages may be low, taking steps to improve awareness and preparedness can make a significant difference. Martyn's Law promotes a proactive approach to safety, ensuring communities have clear plans in place should the unexpected happen. Importantly, the Act is not intended to add unnecessary burden or require the installation of costly equipment; its focus is on sensible, practical measures that enhance public protection.

Types of venues parish and town councils manage that may be affected

Parish and town councils are responsible for a variety of public spaces that may need to comply with Martyn's Law. These include:

- **Town and village halls:** Frequently used for meetings, events, and community gatherings.
- **Community centres:** Venues that regularly host activities and events open to the public.
- **Parks and open spaces:** Locations for festivals, fairs, and other large-scale outdoor occasions.
- **Markets:** Such as farmers' markets, seasonal fairs, and Christmas markets.
- **Sports and leisure facilities:** Including playing fields, sports halls, and public gyms.
- **Libraries:** Centres for learning and community engagement, welcoming regular visitors.
- **Public squares and local landmarks:** Spaces used for celebrations, vigils, and public gatherings.

How Could Martyn's Law Affect Parish and Town Councils?

If your parish or town council operates venues or organises events that meet the relevant capacity thresholds, you may need to introduce some additional planning and measures. These could include:

- Conducting risk assessments to identify potential security concerns.
- Providing security awareness training for staff and volunteers.
- Developing clear emergency response plans to ensure readiness.
- Collaborating with local authorities and emergency services for guidance.
- Installing practical security measures where appropriate, such as CCTV or bag checks for larger events.

Steps Parish and Town Councils Can Take Now

Although Martyn's Law is still in the early stages of implementation, councils can begin preparing by:

- **Reviewing venues and events:** Identify which spaces may be covered by the law.
- **Raising awareness:** Ensure council staff, event organisers, and volunteers understand basic security considerations.
- **Engaging with local authorities:** Seek advice from police and security professionals.
- **Developing contingency plans:** Create clear procedures for handling security-related situations.
- **Staying informed:** Keep up to date with official guidance to ensure compliance when the law is fully enacted.

Must be compliant by April 2027

Appropriate and reasonably practicable (Standard and Enhanced)

The term "reasonably practicable" is used in other areas such as Fire Safety and Health and Safety legislation. When deciding what is reasonably practicable, the responsible person must consider their specific circumstances, including the nature of the premises and the resources available to them.

It's important to emphasise that Martyn's Law is not designed to create unnecessary burden or require significant additional expenditure. What is appropriate and reasonably practicable will vary from one location to another, and procedures that suit one premises may not be suitable or practical for another. Each site should be assessed

individually, with the focus on sensible, cost-effective measures rather than expensive equipment or complex requirements.

Effective procedures and measures

Procedures and measures should be communicated to all those who need to be aware of them, i.e. the people who must implement them effectively in response to a suspected incident. This may include employees, volunteers and contractors as well as those hiring premises.

Responsible Person

The responsible person for qualifying premises

For qualifying premises, the responsible person is the person who has control of the premises in connection with their Schedule 1 use.

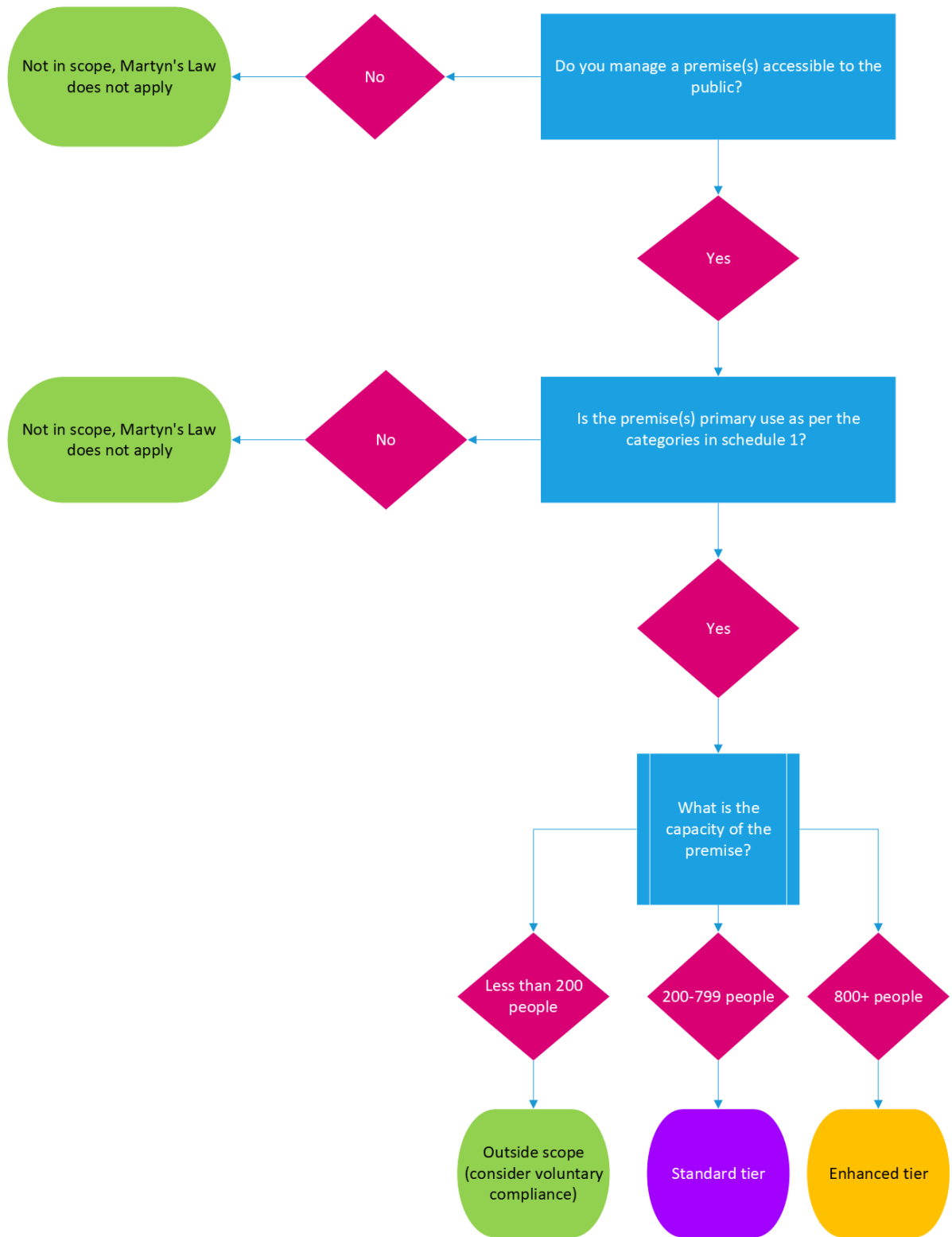
The categories of use set out in Schedule 1 to the Act are:

- shops etc
- food and drink
- entertainment and leisure activities
- sports grounds
- libraries, museums and galleries
- halls etc
- visitor attractions
- hotels etc
- places of Worship
- health care
- bus stations, railway stations etc
- aerodromes
- childcare
- primary and secondary education
- further education
- higher education
- public authorities

Parks, gardens, recreation grounds, sports grounds and other open-air premises used for recreation, or leisure are generally excluded from the Act's provisions. However, this exclusion only applies where they are generally open access. If such premises have measures in place to secure or check that access is restricted, they would not be excluded premises and may be within scope of the Bill. This includes where a payment is made, a ticket or pass is issued, or where individuals are members or guests of a club, association or similar body to gain access (e.g. a members access only tennis club).¹

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-act-2025-factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-act-2025-scope-premises>

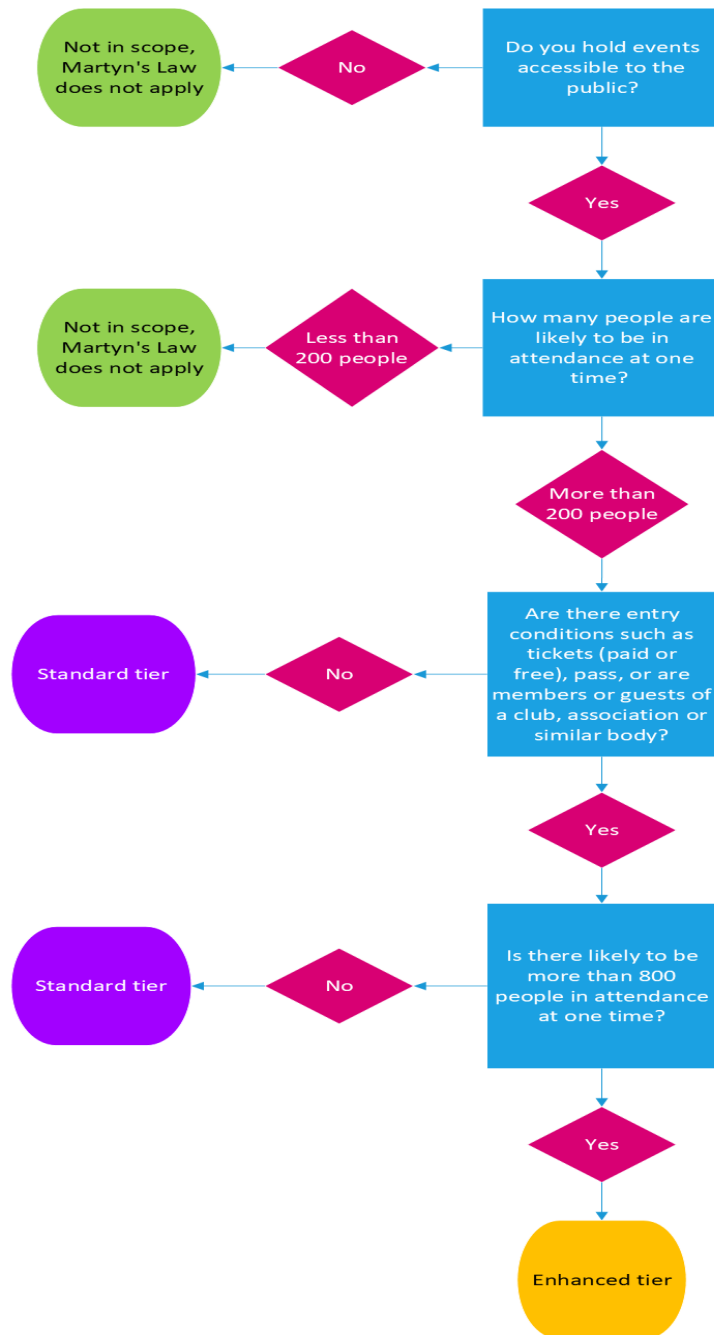
Martyn's Law – Qualifying Premises Flow Chart



The responsible person for qualifying events

For qualifying events, the responsible person is the person who has control of the premises for the purposes of the event. For example, if the parish council hire the village hall which is not owned by the parish council, the parish council are the responsible person for the event.

Martyn's Law – Qualifying Events Flow Chart



Standard Tier

Premises

Those responsible for standard duty premises are required to have in place, so far as is **reasonably practicable**, appropriate public protection procedures.

These are procedures that may be expected to reduce the risk of physical harm to individuals if an act of terrorism occurred at the premises or in the immediate vicinity.

Standard tier requirements

The requirements for all qualifying premises and events are:

1. Notification

The responsible person for standard duty premises will be required to notify the Security Industry Authority (SIA) when they become responsible for the premises. They must also notify the SIA when they cease to be responsible.

Regulations will set out the required time for notifying the SIA, and what information must be provided about the responsible person and the premises.

2. Public protection procedures

The responsible person for standard duty premises will be required to ensure that, so far as is **reasonably practicable**, appropriate public protection procedures are in place at the premises.

The four types of procedures that must be put in place, as appropriate and so far as is **reasonably practicable**, are:

- **evacuation:** the process of getting people safely out of the premises
- **invacuation:** The process of bringing people safely into, or to safer parts of, the premises
- **lockdown:** the process of securing the premises to prevent individuals entering or leaving the premises, e.g. to restrict or prevent entry by an attacker by locking doors, closing shutters or using available barriers
- **communication:** the process of alerting people on the premises to the danger, e.g. providing instructions to remain in place or move away from any danger.

Enhanced Tier

Premises and qualifying events

Those responsible for enhanced duty premises and qualifying events are required to have in place public protection procedures, too, but they must also do more in recognition of the potentially more impactful consequence of a successful attack.

They are required to have in place, so far as is reasonably practicable, appropriate **public protection measures**. These are measures that further the objectives of reducing the vulnerability of the premises or event to acts of terrorism or reducing the risk of physical harm to individuals, thereby providing better protection from acts of terrorism.

Enhanced tier requirements

The requirements for premises and events in the enhanced tier are:

1. **Standard tier requirements** and
2. **Designate a senior individual**

Where the responsible person for enhanced duty premises or a qualifying event is not an individual, they must designate a senior individual. This must be someone who has responsibility for managing the affairs of the relevant body as a whole.

Public Protection Measures

Measures should be tailored to the premises or event and aim to:

1. Reduce vulnerability to terrorism.
2. Reduce risk of physical harm.

Types of measures include:

- Monitoring: CCTV, awareness materials, reporting suspicious behaviour.
- Movement Control: Entry screening, barriers, observing behaviour.
- Physical Security: Stand-off zones, safety glass, hostile vehicle mitigations.
- Information Security: Restrict access to sensitive information (e.g., floor plans).

Documenting compliance

A person responsible for enhanced duty premises or qualifying event must record the following information in a tailored document:

- the public protection procedures that are in place, and/or which will be put in place;
- the public protection measures that are in place, and/or which will be put in place; and
- reasoning as to how those public protection procedures and measures reduce the vulnerabilities and/or risk of harm, were a terrorist attack to occur

The document must be kept up to date. It should focus on the totality of the procedures and measures in place and contain the necessary detail to enable the SIA to make an initial evaluation of compliance. This might form part of a remote assessment or support an on-site inspection, for which it is critical that the SIA can develop a clear understanding of the vulnerabilities of the premises or event to different types of attack.

The document should be provided to the SIA as soon as reasonably practicable after it is prepared for the first time and within 30 days of any revision.

E-Learning

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/group/84?type=catalog>

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/advice-and-guidance/security/see-check-and-notify-scan>

Useful links

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law/martyns-law-overview-and-what-you-need-know>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-act-2025-factsheets>

Risk assessments

<https://www.clearcouncils.co.uk/risk-assessment-templates/>