



ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS
PROTECTION

ASP PUBLIC PROTECTION SERIES

Keeping people safe. Making Martyn's Law practical.

A clear, practical guide for people responsible for public premises and events.

VENUE OWNERS, MANAGERS AND EVENT ORGANISERS

ISSUE 02 / OCTOBER 2026

THE PRINCIPLE

Start with people, not products

The strongest protection plan is one the duty team can understand and use under pressure.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 - widely known as Martyn's Law - asks certain public premises and events to prepare for terrorist attacks and reduce the risk of physical harm.

For most venues, the first priority is not a shopping list. It is clear responsibility, four workable public-protection procedures, informed staff and a plan that still makes sense on the busiest day of the year.

"Would the people on duty know who decides, what to say and where to move people?"

That is the practical test behind this guide.

INSIDE

- Check whether the premises or event is in scope - including special cases and exclusions.
- Understand the standard and enhanced duties, and the four core procedures.
- Clarify who is responsible and how shared sites will coordinate.
- Decide where technology adds value - and where a procedure is enough.
- Keep plans, training, technical systems and official guidance under review.

CURRENT POSITION / 27 OCTOBER 2026

Royal Assent was on 3 April 2025. Most operational duties are not yet in force. The SIA expects commencement in spring 2027, but the exact date has not been announced. Recheck the official position before relying on a future date.



01 / SCOPE

Does the law apply to your venue?

Start with the venue's main use, the number of people it is reasonable to expect at one time (including staff), and the statutory exclusions. Do not rely only on a fire-capacity figure or a licence.

CATEGORY	TYPICAL TRIGGER	CORE TREATMENT
Standard tier	200-799 people	Notify the SIA at commencement and put appropriate, reasonably practicable procedures in place.
Enhanced tier	800+ people	Standard duties plus protective measures, senior leadership designation where required, and a compliance document.
Qualifying event	Generally 800+ with entry checks	Enhanced-type duties where the event criteria and exclusions are met.

SPECIAL CASES
Qualifying childcare, primary, secondary and further-education premises, and places of worship, generally remain in the standard tier even if 800 or more people may be present. Universities and mixed-use sites need separate checking.

EVENTS AND EXCLUSIONS
A gathering of 800 is not automatically a qualifying event. Public access, entry checks, the location and specific exclusions all matter. Transport premises and some open-access outdoor sites have separate treatment.



02 / GOVERNANCE

Who is actually responsible?

The legal duty normally sits with the person or organisation in control of the premises for the relevant use.

It is not automatically the freeholder, managing agent or security contractor. Shared premises, hired venues and events can involve several organisations, so the boundaries must be agreed and recorded.

- Name the responsible person and the day-to-day duty lead.
- Agree who controls exits, alarms, common areas and public messages.
- For enhanced premises or events, designate the senior individual where required.
- When the duties commence, keep SIA notification details current.

A PRACTICAL RESPONSIBILITY MAP

ROLE	QUESTION TO ANSWER
Duty lead + deputy	Who assesses the situation and initiates the agreed procedure?
Public messages	Who communicates - and what is the backup channel?
Assistance	Who coordinates support for people who need help?
Shared-site liaison	Who contacts landlords, event organisers and neighbours?
System support	Who implements the fallback plan and reports faults?

A useful test: on a Saturday evening, who has authority to act - and who takes over if that person is unavailable?

03 / PUBLIC PROTECTION

Four procedures everyone should understand

They are decisions and actions - not four mandatory pieces of equipment.

01

EVACUATION

Move people away from danger and out of the affected area. Plan alternatives if the usual exit or assembly point is unsafe.

02

INVACUATION

Bring people into, or move them toward, a safer internal area - particularly when the threat is outside.

03

LOCKDOWN

Control access or movement to reduce exposure, while preserving safe escape and meeting other legal duties.

04

COMMUNICATION

Tell staff and the public what is happening, what to do and how instructions will continue if one channel fails.

The procedure only works if people know it. Keep instructions short, name who can issue them, include contractors and volunteers, and think about children, disabled people, unfamiliar visitors and people who may not hear an alert.





04 / ENHANCED DUTY

Extra protection at larger premises and events

Enhanced-duty sites must consider and implement appropriate, reasonably practicable protective measures in four broad areas. The Act does not prescribe one camera, gate or screening product.

AREA	WHAT IT CAN INCLUDE
Monitoring	Staff vigilance, approach-route awareness, useful CCTV, incident reporting and arrangements that someone can act on.
Movement	Permissions, visitor or bag checks, managed queues, event routes and appropriate barriers.
Physical safety	Stand-off, protective glazing, building measures or independently assessed hostile-vehicle mitigation.
Information security	Control plans, credentials, network access, exports and operational details.

Think about the complete visitor journey - car park, queue, entrance, internal movement, exit and the public realm beyond the lease line.

05 / PRACTICAL ROUTE

From concern to action

A simple sequence keeps the conversation proportionate and makes technology easier to justify.

- 
- 01 Confirm scope**

Expected attendance, relevant uses, exclusions, seasonal peaks and who is legally responsible.
 - 02 Walk the site**

Where people gather, queue, enter, exit and take shelter - and where a threat could appear.
 - 03 Agree the response**

Write clear evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication procedures.
 - 04 Test with people**

Brief real duty staff, volunteers and contractors; correct uncertainty through walkthroughs.
 - 05 Close the gaps**

Only now consider monitoring, communications, access control or physical works.
 - 06 Record and review**

Keep actions, owners and changes visible; refresh the plan when the site or use changes.

TECHNOLOGY SHOULD ENTER THE CONVERSATION ONLY WHEN IT SOLVES A CLEAR OPERATIONAL PROBLEM.

BEFORE BUYING, ASK

- Can the people on duty operate it without specialist help?
- What happens during loss of power, network or cloud access?
- Do doors and exits remain safe, accessible and fire-compliant?
- Does it manage privacy and avoid a false sense of certainty?
- Who maintains it, tests it and responds when it fails?

06 / SYSTEMS

Where security technology may help

Begin with the required outcome. Then assess whether a proportionate system improves it.

NEED	POTENTIAL APPROACH	POINTS TO RESOLVE
See what is happening	CCTV, targeted monitoring, ANPR in relevant locations	Coverage, privacy, lighting, retention, monitoring and maintenance.
Control an entrance	Access control, intercoms, turnstiles and speed gates	Emergency egress, accessible routes, overrides and power loss.
Manage vehicles	Automatic gates, barriers or independently specified protective measures	An ordinary access barrier is not automatically crash-rated HVM.
Reach people quickly	PA, voice alarm, staff alerts and two-way communications	Audibility, language, authority, backup power and failure modes.
Coordinate responses	Integration between systems and agreed operating procedures	Fire interfaces, authorised control, testing and remote-access security.

Analytics can help flag configured events and remote viewing can improve visibility. They still need compatible equipment, sensible settings and someone able to act. AI and ANPR are not automatic legal requirements.

THE RIGHT QUESTION

“What will this help the duty team achieve in the first two minutes?”

07 / REAL SETTINGS

Different venues need different answers

Use the same principles, but test them against how the site genuinely operates.

01 Leisure centre / sports facility

Mixed zones, noise, children and peak demand. Test communication between areas, external entrances, mobility needs and the difference between a fire response and an external threat.

02 School, college or childcare

Build around safeguarding, supervision, visitor entry and age-appropriate messages. Check the special scope rules and do not compromise safe evacuation.

03 Place of worship

Open access and welcome are central. Consider discreet monitoring, awareness at the entrance and practical shelter and communication without changing the character of the venue.

04 Retail, entertainment or major event

Several entrances, queues, deliveries and variable crowd flow. Review perimeter visibility, public-realm dependencies, vehicle approaches and coordination with landlords and responders.

No venue should buy an off-the-shelf “compliance bundle” before the operational need is understood.

08 / KEEP IT ALIVE

A plan is only useful while it remains current

Changes to people, layouts, events and systems can quickly make a once-sensible procedure unreliable.

OWN IT

Record who approves the procedures, keeps contacts current and closes actions.

RECORD CHANGE

Note new doors, altered layouts, staff turnover, different events and changing occupancy.

**PROVE
UNDERSTANDING**

Keep briefing records, walkthrough actions, maintenance evidence and lessons from exercises.

**CONTROL
INFORMATION**

Restrict sensitive plans, credentials, camera maps and emergency control details.

**REVIEW
PROPORTIONATELY**

An annual review is sensible for many sites, with earlier review after material change - but it is not a universal statutory interval.

ENHANCED-TIER COMPLIANCE DOCUMENT

The responsible person must document the procedures, measures and the reasoning behind them. Once the duties commence, it must be given to the SIA as soon as reasonably practicable after first preparation and within 30 days of a revision.

09 / REGULATION

The SIA, enforcement and readiness

The regulator intends a proportionate, supportive and risk-based approach - backed by meaningful enforcement powers.

CURRENT POSITION

TOPIC	POSITION
Commencement	Spring 2027 is expected; the precise start date has not been announced.
Notification	The SIA process is planned for commencement; there is no current duty to register under the uncommenced provisions.
Inspections	Typically at least 72 hours' notice, with limited exceptions and warrant powers.
Standard-tier penalties	Up to £10,000; up to £500 per day in qualifying ongoing cases.
Enhanced / event penalties	Up to the greater of £18m or 5% of qualifying worldwide revenue; up to £50,000 per day in qualifying cases.

READINESS CHECK

- ☐ Scope and special tier rules checked.
- ☐ Responsible person documented.
- ☐ Four procedures discussed separately.
- ☐ Duty staff know who can act.
- ☐ Assistance and fire safety considered.
- ☐ Enhanced measures assessed if relevant.
- ☐ Every system has a clear purpose and fallback.
- ☐ A named person owns review and updates.

Maximum sanctions are not automatic fines. Due process, mitigation and appeal rights matter; seek legal advice for enforcement issues.

PRACTICAL NEXT STEP

Choose one realistic busy-hour scenario and work it through with the duty team. Record what they can do confidently and what needs to change.



ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS
PROTECTION

Talk to ASP about your site

Alternative Systems Protection designs, installs and maintains CCTV, access control, automatic doors, gates and barriers, speed gates, turnstiles and integrated security systems. Our role is to translate an agreed protection plan into practical, maintainable technology - only where it adds real value.

alternativesystemsprotection.co.uk

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OFFICIAL READING

[Home Office guidance](#)

[SIA regulator guidance](#)

[ProtectUK learning](#)

[Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025](#)

General information and technical good practice only - not legal advice, certification or a guarantee of compliance. The responsible person retains the statutory duty. Other fire-safety, accessibility, privacy and building requirements continue to apply.

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