

Martyn's Law, also known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, is pending UK-wide legislation aimed at enhancing public safety by ensuring better preparedness for, and protection from, terrorist attacks. This legislation is named in honour of Martyn Hett, who tragically lost his life in the Manchester Arena bombing in 2017. The law will impose mandatory security measures for certain public premises and events, with requirements varying based on the capacity and nature of the venue.

Key Requirements of Martyn's Law

Martyn's Law introduces a tiered approach to security measures:

1. Standard Tier: Applies to venues with a capacity of 100 to 799 people. Requirements include:

- Conducting vulnerability assessments.
- Implementing proportionate mitigation measures.
- Completing a preparedness plan.
- Providing staff training and raising awareness.

2. Enhanced Tier: Applies to venues with a capacity of 800 or more people. Requirements include:

- Conducting detailed risk assessments.
- Developing and implementing comprehensive security plans.
- Designating a responsible person for adherence to the law.
- Implementing physical security measures where necessary.

Application to TWBC Venues

TWBC oversees several venues that will be affected by Martyn's Law, including the Assembly Hall Theatre, The Amelia Centre, and The Camden Centre.

1. Assembly Hall Theatre

- Capacity: The Assembly Hall Theatre has a capacity that likely places it in the Enhanced Tier.
- Requirements: The theatre will need to conduct detailed risk assessments, develop a comprehensive security plan, and ensure staff are trained in counter-terrorism measures. Physical security measures such as CCTV and controlled access points may also be necessary.

2. The Amelia Centre

- Capacity: The Amelia Centre, which includes a library and museum, may fall into the Standard Tier depending on the specific capacity of its events and spaces.
- Requirements: The centre will need to conduct vulnerability assessments, implement proportionate security measures, and ensure staff are trained and aware of emergency procedures. A preparedness plan will also be required.

3. The Camden Centre

- Capacity: The Camden Centre, used for various community events, may also fall into the Standard Tier.
- Requirements: Similar to The Amelia Centre, the Camden Centre will need to conduct vulnerability assessments, implement security measures, and ensure staff training and preparedness plans are in place.

Implications for TWBC

Implementing Martyn's Law will require TWBC to:

- **Assess and Upgrade Security:** Conduct thorough assessments of each venue's vulnerabilities and upgrade security measures accordingly.
- **Staff Training:** Ensure all staff at these venues receive appropriate counter-terrorism training and are aware of emergency procedures.
- **Develop Preparedness Plans:** Create and maintain detailed preparedness plans tailored to each venue's specific needs and capacities.
- **Collaboration and Compliance:** Work closely with security partners, local authorities, and the community to ensure compliance with the new legislation and foster a culture of security.