

Martyn's Law

for Music Education

Martyn's Law is more properly the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. It will come into force in Spring 2027. Despite the title of the law, it is about protecting people, not premises. There are some general principles to understand.

- Martyn's Law applies everywhere in the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland); it does not apply outside of the UK.
- It is not just about events: it applies equally to all spaces and activities including day-to-day operations, rehearsals, music centre sessions and residential courses.
- It applies to all people, not just participants. Staff, parents waiting on site, venue staff, audience members and volunteers all count towards thresholds as well as students or ensemble members. People on site who are not part of your activity also count.
- Premises and events where fewer than 200 people will ever be present are not in scope.
- Premises and events where 200 to 799 people may be present are standard tier; 800 and above are enhanced tier.
- Exemptions: **schools** (of any phase, state or independent), FE colleges and childcare settings and **places of worship** are always in the standard tier. Note that HE institutions are not covered by this exemption and are most likely to fall into the enhanced tier.
- Every in scope premises and event will have a **Responsible Person**, which may be the organisation's governing body. They can delegate tasks but absolutely cannot pass off their responsibility, e.g. onto someone hiring their premises.
- Organised travel is out of scope. Large railway stations and transport hubs (e.g. airports) are covered by other legislation.
- Mitigations should be **reasonably practicable** but the regulator will take into account the size of the organisation (not just the department) and will expect, for example, a local authority to have more resources than a small charity.
- There is no mandatory training but if people do not know about a procedure and are unable to enact it, enforcement will be as if the procedure did not exist. It is essential to brief staff effectively and keep records of those briefings.

Responsibilities at each tier

Out of scope

capacity under 200 people

No specific responsibilities beyond routine management of hazards. Some advice for standard tier premises may be applicable however, particularly around the four procedures outlined below. Note that if there is an unexpected, one-time surge in numbers on-site, this will not necessarily put the venue into the standard tier.

Standard tier

capacity 200-799 plus all schools, FE colleges and places of worship

The Responsible Person must be registered on the Security Industry Authority's online portal (free of charge) from spring 2027. Any changes to the Responsible Person must be updated promptly.

The Responsible Person must put in place reasonably practical **procedures** for public safety. The Act requires four specific procedures to be considered (see below). It is not compulsory to document procedures but it is good practice.

The Responsible Person must co-ordinate with other Responsible Persons to ensure that procedures do not conflict. This would apply where there is more than one person with legal responsibility or where the premises is inside another qualifying premises, such as a unit within an office block.

They must also inform staff of the procedures and their specific duties. It is advisable to log the content of briefings and who attended.

Procedures must be tested and practised regularly. This need not always be full drills: tabletop exercises and walk throughs can reveal weak points. As with briefings, logging tests and findings is advisable.

The Responsible Person must review the procedures periodically. Annually is recommended, or more frequently if anything significant changes.

Enhanced tier

All standard tier requirements apply **plus** the following:

Notification on the Security Industry Authority's online portal must include operational details. These must be updated promptly on the portal if they change.

The Responsible Person must put in place **measures** which actively reduce the physical vulnerability of the venue or event:

monitoring	e.g. real-time CCTV monitoring, security patrols, security lighting, heightened vigilance among site and FOH staff
control of movement	ticketing checks, random or targeted bag searches, zone control (e.g. pass-controlled access to backstage)
physical	installing vehicle barriers, vehicle stand-off zones, window film or blast-resistant glazing, reinforcing points of vulnerability

information	ensuring websites and social media do not reveal sensitive floor plans or CCTV schemes, storing emergency plans securely, advising staff against revealing work patterns on social media, ensuring licensing and planning applications do not reveal sensitive plans publicly
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Formal documentation is required, of plans, procedures and measures along with a written assessment of how these are expected to reduce vulnerability and physical harm. Documentation must be submitted to the SIA and updated within 30 days of any changes.

The organisation must appoint a Senior Individual (board member, trustee, proprietor or senior manager) who will take overall legal responsibility on behalf of the organisation. Note that this person may be personally prosecuted for breaches which occur with their consent, connivance or negligence.

There is a duty to co-ordinate with other entities who share responsibility for a site or event. If you need permission or support from a third party (such as a landlord), they have a statutory duty to co-operate with you.

Finally, the Responsible Person must ensure staff competence and keep a written log of all training, learning and counter-terrorism instruction.

Procedures you must consider (standard and enhanced tiers):

evacuation	differs from a fire evacuation in that people should be placed on multiple dispersal routes (rather than mustering in one place), to avoid creating a secondary target
invacuation	moving people inside to a safer space, e.g. away from glass or external doors
lockdown	securing the premises to prevent an attacker entering, or restricting their movement inside the building
communication	agreed forms of communication which provide clear, simple instructions

Who's Who

The **Responsible Person** for an LA-based music service will be the Council. For schools it is generally the governing body or academy trust. For most independent music services and NYMOs it will usually be the charity/trust board. For CICs and private companies it will usually be the board of directors, or maybe the proprietor.

The **Senior Individual** (enhanced tier only) is a named director, trustee or senior manager within the organisation. LAs will usually have an appointed Senior Individual and LA-based music services may need to liaise with this person, even if none of their activity is in the enhanced tier.

If the Responsible Person or Senior Individual changes, the outgoing person must inform the SIA promptly via the portal.

Enforcement

The Security Industry Authority is empowered to inspect premises and documentation, and it can require any person present during the inspection to assist them. Inspectors may ask organisers and any staff about procedures for the venue or event. The SIA will generally give 72 hours' written notice of a compliance visit but can seek a warrant to visit without notice. They will be able to issue compliance notices and restriction notices.

Financial Penalty notices can be issued (up to £10,000) plus continuing daily penalties while the organisation continues not to comply. Failure to comply with a restriction notice *in respect of Enhanced Tier premises or events only* is a criminal offence and can result in imprisonment of the Senior Individual.

Most music education activity will be out of scope or standard tier

The requirements for the enhanced tier are onerous however it is thought that Music Mark members will rarely be solely responsible for venues or events that fall into this category. Events of this scale are exceptional and are usually in professional venues (which will have their established measures and procedures) or are organised by others with multiple groups participating (such as switching on of Christmas lights or large community events).

Scenarios

Offices and administration

Music providers are unlikely to need to do anything themselves in respect of their office accommodation.

Individually owned, self-contained office buildings are unlikely to be large enough to be in scope. Where providers rent specific office space in a larger building, or are co-located in a large council building, the responsibilities will largely fall on the landlord or the parent organisation (council), which should brief occupants on the necessary procedures and expectations.

Music centres on independent or council-owned sites

Standalone music centres which are not on school sites will not benefit from the schools' exemption but very few are likely to fall into the enhanced tier. In practice, they will more usually be out of scope (under 200 people on-site) or standard tier (over 200 people on-site).

If they are part of a larger site with other organisations or services, the Responsible Person may be the site owner or landlord. Irrespective on individual tenants' status, they all have a duty to co-operate with each other and the Responsible Person for the overall site or premises.

Music centres on school sites

If the music centre is located in the same building as the school and uses the same entrance, it will always fall into the standard tier and the school (usually the governing body or trust board) will be the Responsible Person.

If the music centre is on the same site (or even in the same building) but it is operationally separate – i.e. it shares no functional spaces with the school, has segregated access and controls its own entrances – it is less likely to come under the schools' exemption, so the capacity of the music centre will determine whether it is out of scope, standard tier or (less likely) advanced tier. The Responsible Person will be the charity, trust or the council, depending on the type of organisation.

Activity in hired premises – schools and FE colleges

This will always be standard tier, regardless of activity type or attendance, and the Responsible Person is the school's governing body. The hirer has responsibilities and can be expected undertake tasks in relation to Martyn's Law but the Responsible Person cannot delegate their statutory liabilities.

Activity in hired premises – community buildings

May be out of scope, standard or enhanced tier. Again, the building operator will usually be the Responsible Person.

“Dry hire” premises

If the premises is entirely occupied by the music provider with no on-site support during the hire, the Responsible Person will be the hirer and they will be responsible for complying with Martyn’s Law. If the event is reasonably likely to attract more than 800 people (and certainly if it is ticketed with capacity above 800), they will be required to register on the SIA portal and meet all the requirements for enhanced tier events.

Performances at professional venues – music education provider as hirer and concert organiser

The venue will be correctly registered according to its size and must inform hirers of its procedures. The hirer has a responsibility to brief its staff and to comply with the venue’s procedures.

Performances where the music education provider is not the event organiser

These would be performances where a group is performing at the invitation of a third-party organiser. While there will be a responsibility to comply with venue and event procedures and to brief staff, the Responsible Person is the venue or event organiser.

Residential courses

These are often in independent schools, which fall within the standard tier. The school’s procedures will apply and course staff will need to understand these.

Some independent school sites are large and may not be bounded by fencing as state schools usually are. Public roads are not in scope for Martyn’s Law but operationally, areas in the immediate vicinity of venues must be treated as part of the venue. This will usually mean supervising movements and being capable of enacting procedures quickly, even when moving between school sites.

Other venues (outdoor education centres, hostels, universities) will have to comply with the requirements for their tier and music education providers will have a duty to co-operate and follow the venue’s procedures.

Touring within the UK

Travel is out of scope.

Accommodation is potentially in scope. The Responsible Person (for premises above 200 people) will be the school, hostel or hotel.

Rehearsal and concert venues are potentially in scope. The Responsible Person will be the venue or event organiser. The music provider will have responsibilities in following the procedures and communicating these to their staff and participants.

Touring abroad

Travel and all activity outside the UK are out of scope. Pre-tour rehearsals and post-tour concerts that take place in the UK however will be covered in the scenarios above.

Martyn's Law is site-specific

Few music education providers operate exclusively out of a single site. Most will therefore have some activity that is out of scope of Martyn's Law, other activity that is standard tier and perhaps an occasional concert in a venue in the enhanced tier. It is possible that some providers will never be solely responsible for activity that is in scope if they only operate in smaller venues.

When hiring a venue, the legal liability under Martyn's Law will almost always rest with the venue (except "dry" hires, see above) and they cannot delegate it. They can delegate tasks, as long as they are confident that the hirer has the knowledge and resources to carry them out.

Information and training

The SIA training and licensing website has some information:

<https://siatrainingandlicensing.co.uk/sia-regulator-martyns-law/>

Their training is paid and it is more relevant for people pursuing employment in the security industry.

The SIA page on Martyn's Law links to the ACT training from Protect UK. This is e-learning and is free:

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/group/130>

Note that there is no specific requirement for staff training. They just need to be briefed and confident to enact your procedures should the need arise.