Department for Education

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: Martyn's Law

Explainer guidance for education and childcare settings in England

November 2026

Contents

Introduction 3

Who this explainer guidance is for 4

Determining whether your setting is in scope 5

- Qualifying premises 5
- Thresholds for the education and childcare sector 6

Out-of-scope premises 10

Legal requirements 11

- Standard tier (all childcare, schools, further education in scope and some higher education settings) 11
- The responsible person 11
- Legal duties of all responsible persons 13
- Public protection procedures (standard tier, enhanced tier and qualifying events) 14
- Co-ordination 17
- Co-operation 17
- Additional requirements for enhanced tier settings 19
- Requirements for enhanced tier 19
- Qualifying events 22

The Regulator: The Security Industry Authority 23

- Documenting compliance 23

Other settings 24

- Out-of-School Settings 24
- Childminders 25
- Children's social care 25
- Training and third-party providers 25

Resources 26

- Martyn's Law 26
- Additional resources 26
- External links 27

Glossary 29

Introduction

This explainer guidance sets out the key principles for education and childcare settings in England under the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 ('the Act'), commonly known as 'Martyn's Law'. It supports the education and childcare sector to meet legal requirements to take reasonable steps to prepare for potential terrorist attacks and keep people safe.

The Home Office has issued statutory guidance under Section 27 of the Act. This is the primary guidance and must be followed first as it explains what those in scope must do to meet their legal requirements ("requirements"). It is available here: Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 - GOV.UK.

How to use this guidance

This explainer guidance is non-statutory and should be used alongside the Home Office guidance to help settings comply with the legislation.

The examples contained in this document have been written to illustrate specific concepts in the Act and to aid understanding.

The examples in this guidance:

- are not exhaustive and will not directly apply to all premises or events
- are not instructions on what should be done in specific circumstances
- are for illustration only and should be considered alongside the specific circumstances of each premises or event

Each qualifying premises and qualifying event is different. Those responsible should consider the specific circumstances of the premises or event and seek legal advice where necessary.

In addition, the Security Industry Authority (SIA), as the regulator, will issue statutory guidance under Section 12 of the Act on how it will carry out its functions. This will be published on the SIA's GOV.UK page before the end of 2026.

In this explainer document, the term 'must' reflects a legal requirement in the Act. All other wording in this document is advisory and describes recommended good practice rather than a legal duty.

In this document, you will see references to terms such as *"at the same time"*, *"from time to time"*, *"Schedule 1 use"* and *"responsible person"*. Definitions of these terms can be found in the glossary and in the Home Office guidance. You should familiarise yourself with them before reading further.

Who this explainer guidance is for

This explainer guidance has been written to assist education and childcare settings in England to meet their legal requirements under the Act by ensuring measures are in place to protect individuals and reduce physical harm in the event of an attack.

It outlines the duties placed on the responsible person for qualifying premises and qualifying events, and applies to a wider audience, including:

- Teachers and lecturers
- All education staff and professionals (including designated security leads)
- Safeguarding leaders (including subject coordinators, special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs))
- Professionals from the voluntary sector
- Academy Trusts, trustees and leaders
- Headteachers and senior leaders
- Governors and governing bodies
- Proprietors
- Local Authorities
- Registered childcare providers and staff working in childcare settings

Small schools and other premises with few individuals present

Note that premises that do not have a reasonable expectation that 200 or more individuals will be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, in connection with one or more Schedule 1 uses (e.g. as a school) are not in scope of Martyn's law.

See 'Qualifying Premises' in the next section for more details.

While those responsible for such premises do not have to meet the requirements of Martyn's law set out in this explainer guidance, they should follow good protective security practice as part of their wider safeguarding responsibilities. See the 'Additional resources' section towards the end of this guidance for more information.

Determining whether your setting is in scope

The following sections will assist you to identify whether your premises are in scope of the Act and in which tier.

Qualifying premises

To be qualifying premises, your site must satisfy the four criteria below:

Criteria 1

The site must meet the definition of premises under the Act. This means the premises must be a 'building' or a 'building and other land' ("building" includes part of a building or a group of buildings). This could include, for example, educational premises such as the school building including:

- any associated playing or sports fields
- the premises from which childcare is provided
- a university building or campus

Criteria 2

The premises must be 'wholly or mainly' used for one or more uses set out in Schedule 1 to the Act. Education and childcare settings are included in Schedule 1 to the Act.

Criteria 3

There must be a reasonable expectation that 200 or more individuals will be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, in connection with one or more Schedule 1 uses.

The number of individuals must include

- all staff (including contractors, volunteers, or otherwise)
- children, pupils and students
- members of the wider public (including visitors – for example, parents who will attend school plays etc.)

Where there is a reasonable expectation that between 200 and 799 individuals will be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, the premises will be in the standard tier.

If the figure is 800 or more individuals, the premises would normally be in the enhanced tier. However, most education and childcare settings are subject to the special consideration. The special consideration sets out that premises used for childcare or primary, secondary or further education that can reasonably expect 200 or more

individuals to be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, will be in scope of the standard tier even if that number of expected individuals is 800 or more.

For settings outside the special consideration (including higher education providers), if the figure is 800 or more individuals, the premises will be in the enhanced tier.

Criteria 4

The premises are not excluded by virtue of Schedule 2 to the Act. Education and childcare settings are not excluded or exempt from being within scope of the Act, although some qualifying premises are subject to special considerations, see chapter on "Thresholds for the education and childcare sector" for further details.

There are many premises which could consist of a group of buildings used for a Schedule 1 use or uses. Indicative factors of a group of buildings include:

- close geographical proximity,
- sharing a principal Schedule 1 use,
- having the same responsible person for all or most of the buildings in the group (note that some buildings within the group may be controlled by different individuals or organisations).

This does not apply when an organisation has buildings or campuses in different towns or cities, or which are geographically distant in the same town or city.

This is true even if they share the same name or management. For example, different schools that are not in the same location within an Academy Trust are seen as separate premises. This is true even if they share the same responsible person.

To determine whether buildings are a group of buildings you should consider the following (not limited to) whether:

- the buildings are near one another in practical, operational terms,
- they share the same principal Schedule 1 use,
- they are managed by the same responsible person, while noting that some individual buildings may be run by separate third-party operators.

Thresholds for the education and childcare sector

Primary, secondary and some further education and childcare settings

These education and childcare settings are premises subject to different thresholds, referred to as the 'special consideration'.

Childcare, primary, secondary education, and some further education settings will fall within the standard tier if they:

- reasonably expect 200 or more individuals to be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time
- meet all other qualifying criteria

For further education establishments, this excludes:

- employer providers and,
- private non-government funded further education training providers.

The special consideration applies even if that number is 800 or greater.

If settings in this category have a reasonable expectation of 199 individuals or fewer on the premises at the same time, from time to time, they will not be in scope of the Act as qualifying premises.

The reasonable expectation of individuals present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, should include staff, learners and anyone else who might reasonably be expected to be there.

This includes:

- professionals
- visitors
- volunteers
- family members
- members of the public.

For childcare, schools and further education settings this will often be based on the combined maximum of:

- children or young people likely to be present on the premises (e.g. the number enrolled or registered),
- staff likely to be present on the premises (e.g. the total number employed at the premises),
- number of others likely to be present on the premises (e.g. parents, volunteers, or visitors).

All settings will have a responsible person, see chapters below for further details. A reasonable method should be used to calculate the greatest expected number of individuals at the premises at the same time, from time to time. The Home Office has published non-statutory Supplementary Document A alongside the statutory guidance which outlines methods for assessing numbers of individuals present.

Education and childcare settings covered by the Act should already have a way to record and verify how many people are on the premises at any time.

The method used should be reliable, appropriate to the size, nature and day-to-day operations of the setting, and able to show compliance with the Act for the Security Industry Authority (SIA) if required. The SIA may request additional information or evidence where necessary to confirm that the method used is appropriate and sufficient.

Higher education settings

There is no special consideration for higher education settings. Universities will therefore fall under the standard tier where it is reasonable to expect 200-799 individuals to be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, and the enhanced tier where it is reasonable to expect 800 or more individuals to be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time.

The reasonable expectation of individuals present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, should include staff, learners and anyone else who might reasonably be expected to be there.

This includes:

- professionals
- visitors
- volunteers
- family members
- members of the public.

For higher education settings this will often be based on the combined maximum number of learners, staff and others (including non-staff working on site and the public) reasonably expected to be on the premises at the same time, from time to time in connection with one or more Schedule 1 uses.

A reasonable method should be used to calculate the greatest expected number of individuals at the premises at the same time, from time to time. The Home Office has published non-statutory Supplementary Document A alongside the statutory guidance, which outlines methods for assessing numbers of individuals present.

Higher education settings should already have a way to record and verify how many people are on the premises at any time. The method used should be reliable, appropriate to the size, nature and day-to-day operations of the setting, and able to show compliance with the Act for the Security Industry Authority (SIA) if required. The SIA may request additional information or evidence where necessary to confirm that the method used is appropriate and sufficient.

Summary

The Act sets out a tiered approach that is based on the number of people reasonably expected to be present at the same time. Premises that reasonably expect 200 or more people to be present will fall into either the standard or enhanced tier.

Early years, primary, secondary and further education settings have a special consideration in place. This means they will be in the standard tier, even if they expect 800 or more individuals to be present. Enhanced duty requirements will not apply to premises used for early years, primary, secondary or further education.

DfE-funded independent training providers will fall under this special consideration and will be in the standard tier, even if they expect 800 or more individuals.

Privately owned independent training providers will not fall under the special consideration. These providers will be treated the same as other premises in scope of the Act and their tier will depend on the number of individuals reasonably expected to be present.

Higher education establishments will not fall under the special consideration. They will fall into the standard tier if it is reasonable to expect 200 to 799 individuals to be present, and the enhanced tier if it is reasonable to expect 800 or more individuals.

Settings that can reasonably expect below 200 individuals to be present do not fall within scope of the Act, but we encourage all settings to have preparedness plans for the safety of their learners and staff.

Out-of-scope premises

Settings that never reasonably expect 200 or more individuals to be present at the same time, from time to time, are not qualifying premises under the Act and the Act does not require them to meet any specific requirements.

Premises that are not qualifying premises can still meet the requirements of a qualifying event; see chapter on ‘Qualifying Events’ for further information.

Though not required to do so by the Act, those responsible for out-of-scope premises are encouraged to consider the requirements, to enhance safety in education environments.

Example: Special consideration

Building A has the Schedule 1 use of secondary education, one single Schedule 1 use in the Act. At Building A, it is reasonable to expect 967 learners, staff and visitors will be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time.

The school is therefore in scope and must satisfy the requirements of the Act. This is because the premises is a building wholly used for one or more uses set out in Schedule 1. Education and childcare settings are listed in Schedule 1 to the Act. The school also has a reasonable expectation of 967 individuals (including learners, staff, and the wider public) to be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, placing it above 200. As a result, the school is in scope.

Premises with a reasonable expectation of 800 or more individuals present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, would normally fall into the enhanced tier. However, many education and childcare settings (including secondary schools) are subject to different thresholds. The school will therefore fall within the standard tier.

Legal requirements

Standard tier (all childcare, schools, further education in scope and some higher education settings)

Under the standard tier, settings in scope must have in place appropriate public protection procedures, so far as is reasonably practicable. This is necessary to reduce the risk of physical harm in the event of an attack. There is no statutory requirement in the Act to make any physical alterations or to purchase specific equipment relating to putting public protection procedures in place. See paragraph 7.25 of the Home Office guidance for further information.

The definition of a responsible person is set out in the Act, and an education or childcare setting cannot choose to delegate or transfer this responsibility; it is determined by law.

Standard tier settings must:

- Have a responsible person: this could be the Local Authority, Proprietor, Governing Body, or another, depending on who has control of the premises.
- Notify the Security Industry Authority (SIA) in the first instance: the responsible person for standard tier premises must notify the SIA when they start and stop being responsible for that premises. They also need to update the SIA if any details about the qualifying premises are no longer accurate.
- Have public protection procedures in place: the responsible person for standard tier premises must make sure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, appropriate public protection procedures are in place at the premises. These procedures are evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication. These are set out in detail in the chapter on ‘public protection procedures’ of the explainer guidance and Chapter 7 of the Home Office guidance.

Childcare and education settings may already have access control measures or have invacuation, lockdown, evacuation and communication plans in place. Settings may use these existing plans, but they should be updated to be compliant with the Act.

The responsible person

The terms ‘Governing Body’, ‘Local Authority’ and ‘Proprietor’ have been defined in the Glossary section of this explainer guidance.

The responsible person (see responsible person infographic here) is the individual, organisation or company that has control of the premises in connection with their relevant Schedule 1 use, or control over the premises for the purposes of a qualifying event. See Chapter 6 of the Home Office statutory guidance for further details.

The definition of a responsible person is set out in the Act, and an education or childcare setting cannot choose to delegate or transfer this responsibility; it is determined by law.

The responsible person will normally be the governing body for:

- primary education
- secondary education
- further education
- higher education

If there is no Governing Body, it is the relevant Proprietor (who might be an individual or corporate body), except for pupil referral units, where the responsible person is the local authority.

The responsible person is responsible for the setting's decisions under the Act. Individual governors, trustees, directors or other office holders may have specific duties associated with their particular governance or leadership role, but responsibility as the "responsible person" rests with the body or person identified by the Act.

The responsible person for standard or enhanced tier premises and qualifying events must notify the Security Industry Authority (SIA) when they become responsible for the premises or event. They must also notify the SIA if they cease to be responsible or if any information previously notified in relation to the qualifying premises or qualifying event ceases to be accurate. The Home Office has published guidance on the requirement to notify the SIA under Section 9 of the Act.

We expect that, for most settings, the responsible person may be (but not limited to):

- **Childcare settings**: the registered provider of the childcare setting (who will always have control over the premises for the purpose of providing childcare).
- **Pupil Referral Units**: the Local Authority by which the school is maintained.
- **Maintained Schools** (providing primary and secondary education): the Governing Body (maintained schools are always required to have a governing body under Section 19 of the Education Act 2002).
- **Academies**: the Academy Trust, which is the proprietor of academies - including 16–19 academies - set up under the Academies Act 2010.)
- **Independent Schools**: governing body (or the Proprietor, if there is no governing body).
- **Out-of-School settings**: typically, the responsible person is that of the qualifying premises at which the out-of-school activity is being held, if the setting is qualifying premises under the Act. For example, the operator of private premises that the school has rented for the activity. If the activity is run by a school and takes place on school premises, the responsible person would instead be that of the school

(e.g. the Governing Body, Local Authority, or Proprietor, as appropriate and outlined above).

- **Further education settings**: the responsible person is likely to be the Governing Body (for further education settings that do not have a governing body, it will likely be the proprietor).
- **Higher education settings**: The responsible person for Higher education settings is the Governing Body.

In education and childcare settings with landlord-tenant arrangements, the responsible person will often be the premises operator. This can be an individual or an organisation. The premises owner might need to co-operate if they have any level of control over the premises. The responsible person for education and childcare settings is determined by Schedule 1 to the Act.

Legal duties of all responsible persons

The responsible person must comply with the legal requirements set out in Chapter 7 of the Home Office Guidance. Specifically, all responsible persons must:

- Ensure appropriate public protection procedures are in place, so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Co-ordinate with other responsible persons so far as is reasonably practicable, see Chapter 6 of the Home Office Guidance.
- Notify the Security Industry Authority (SIA) when they become responsible or cease to be responsible for qualifying premises or if any information previously notified becomes inaccurate.

These duties apply to standard tier and enhanced tier premises as well as qualifying events. However, enhanced tier premises and qualifying events have additional requirements. These details are outlined in the chapters that follow.

The responsible person for standard tier premises does not need to create a document outlining their procedures or a risk assessment. However, we recommend doing this as good security practice.

It helps ensure that procedures are up to date and clearly communicated and understood by staff.

It can also be hard to show compliance with the Act without documenting procedures particularly in the event of an inspection by the SIA.

A risk assessment template is not required by the Act, but it can assist with creating and applying public protection procedures.

The Act does not require responsible persons to have procedures in place in areas beyond their control.

However, when developing public protection procedures, it is important to consider the ‘immediate vicinity’. This term refers to an area close to the premises or event, but it does not correspond to a fixed or defined distance.

The responsible person might not control the nearby area, but the area could still give public access to the premises or event they do control. For instance, the public footpath next to the school gate. For further information, see paras. 7.12 – 7.14 in the Home Office statutory guidance.

Public protection procedures (standard tier, enhanced tier and qualifying events)

The responsible person must consider what is appropriate and reasonably practicable when ensuring that public protection procedures are in place. For further detail on the definition of ‘appropriate’ and ‘reasonably practicable’ see Chapter 3 of the Home Office guidance. For a brief overview, see the glossary section of this explainer guidance. The right procedures and measures will be dependent on the context of the premises. See the Department for Education’s Protective security and preparedness for education settings.

The responsible person must ensure four key procedures are in place, so far as is reasonably practicable, to reduce the risk of physical harm if a terrorist attack were to occur on the premises, at the event or in the immediate vicinity.

These procedures are

- Evacuation
- Invacuation
- Lockdown
- communication

1. Evacuation

Evacuation is the process of getting people away from danger by moving them out of the premises or event, or part of the premises or event.

Most education and childcare settings will have fire safety evacuation procedures in place. However, it needs to be clear which procedures are for responding to a fire, and which are for responding to a terrorist attack.

This is because evacuation procedures for a terrorist attack can pose different risks. For example, the same assembly point for a fire evacuation could be used as a target of a secondary attack in the case of a terrorist incident.

Additionally, fire can be used as a weapon in an attack or as means to evacuate pupils, students and staff to gain access.

There are four different types of evacuation procedures:

- Full evacuation: the evacuation of the entire premises or event; for example, evacuating the entire school to move them out of the premises and away from danger.
- Partial evacuation: evacuation of a limited area; for example, evacuating a specific classroom or lecture hall.
- Phased evacuation: evacuation in stages; for example, pupils in classrooms closest to an identified risk are evacuated first, followed by adjacent blocks in a controlled sequence to reduce congestion.
- Directional evacuation: evacuation routes are used selectively or adjusted to avoid known threats in certain areas; for example, if an incident is identified near the main entrance, staff direct pupils to use alternative exits at the rear of the building to move away from the threat.

See Chapter 7 of the Home Office guidance for further detail.

2. Invacuation

Invacuation is the process of moving people away from danger to a safer place within the premises or event to reduce the risk of physical harm.

For education and childcare settings, this may include bringing children, pupils, students, staff and visitors inside from outdoor areas such as playgrounds, sports fields or arrival/departure points where it is safe to do so.

It can also involve moving people from one part of the premises to another pre-determined safe space, away from the identified risk, where it is safe to do so. For example, this could include:

- bringing pupils inside quickly if an external threat is identified nearby
- moving a class away from windows or external doors to a more secure internal room
- relocating groups to pre-identified safe areas such as halls, classrooms or other secure spaces

Staff should follow the setting's procedures to ensure movement is calm, controlled and supervised, and that registers or headcounts are taken where appropriate. Consideration should also be given to children, pupils or students with additional needs to ensure they can be safely supported during an invacuation.

3. Lockdown

Lockdown is the process of securing the premises or event to prevent people from entering or leaving to keep people away from danger (e.g. barricading classroom doors, securing windows and closing shutters or gates).

In education and childcare settings, lockdown procedures are used where there is a threat either at the premises or in the immediate vicinity of the premises.

The aim is to restrict movement and reduce exposure to risk by keeping children, pupils, students, staff and visitors in the safest possible locations. Lockdown may include (but is not limited to):

- ensuring all external doors and gates are secured
- keeping individuals inside classrooms or other secure areas
- locking or barricading doors and, where appropriate, blocking visibility into rooms
- maintaining silence and minimising movement to avoid drawing attention

There are two types of lockdown procedures:

- Full lockdown: This means no one can enter or leave the premises (i.e. locking down the whole school).
- Partial lockdown: This only locks certain entry or exit points (e.g. barricading a classroom door).

4. Communication

Communication is the process of ensuring information is provided to individuals at the premises or at the event to alert them to danger as quickly as possible and provide instructions, where it is safe to do so.

Education and childcare settings must have appropriate arrangements in place to warn and inform pupils, students, staff and visitors of an incident.

Communication should support individuals to take appropriate protective action (for example, evacuation, invacuation or lockdown). This may include (but is not limited to):

- ensuring staff understand signals and give clear instructions
- using simple, age-appropriate language for pupils and students
- having backup methods of communication if primary systems fail
- maintaining communication with emergency services
- making sure messages are accessible to individuals with additional needs.

Whilst these resources are not specific to the requirements of Martyn's Law, you may find it useful to refer to the Protective security and preparedness for education settings and

the ACT for education e-learning for good practice on evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication.

Co-ordination

In specific circumstances, those responsible for standard or enhanced tier premises or qualifying events must co-ordinate with each other, so far as is reasonably practicable. This arises where more than one individual, organisation or company is responsible for qualifying premises or an event, or where qualifying premises form part of other qualifying premises.

This is unlikely to be relevant for most childcare or education settings. It is more common in complex environments, such as premises within larger premises (for example, within a shopping centre).

In these cases, responsible persons must co-ordinate arrangements so far as is reasonably practicable, such as aligning communication plans and ensuring evacuation procedures are compatible (for example, to avoid congestion at exits or shared muster points).

Co-operation

There may be times when, to comply with the requirements of the Act, the responsible person for an enhanced tier premises or a qualifying event requires permission or help from someone else to comply with the requirements of the Act.

This could be an individual, organisation, or company that also has some control over the premises or event, but who is not the responsible person.

Co-operation ensures that appropriate public protection measures are in place. Co-operation, as far as reasonably practicable, is a requirement of the Act.

See Chapter 6 of the Home Office guidance for more detail.

Example: Maintained secondary school in the standard tier

A large maintained secondary school can reasonably expect 650 individuals (including pupils, staff and the wider public) to be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time. The school therefore falls within the scope of the standard tier because it can reasonably expect 200 or more individuals on the premises at the same time, from time to time.

The governing body is the responsible person and must comply with the standard tier duties under the Act. The responsible person notifies the Security Industry Authority (SIA) that it is responsible for the premises. It must also ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the school has appropriate public protection procedures in place to reduce the risk of physical harm in the event of a terrorist attack.

The school maintains clear procedures for staff to follow if they suspect an attack is occurring or about to occur. These include:

- evacuation procedures for moving pupils and staff to safe areas away from danger
- invacuation procedures for bringing individuals inside and securing buildings
- lockdown procedures for restricting movement and securing classrooms and internal spaces
- communication protocols for alerting staff and coordinating with emergency services

While the Act does not require standard tier premises to install new physical security measures or to produce a formal written plan, the Governing Body chooses to document its procedures and a simple risk assessment as good security practice.

This documentation helps ensure that procedures are kept up to date, clearly communicated to staff, and available to demonstrate compliance during any SIA inspection. The school makes use of the templates provided in the Protective security and preparedness for education settings guidance to support this work. These procedures may be different to those used for fire.

Through these proportionate steps, the school meets its responsibilities under the standard tier while building a strong, informed safety culture.

Additional requirements for enhanced tier settings

The enhanced tier applies only to higher education and further education settings that are not captured by the special consideration where it is reasonable to expect 800 or more individuals may be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, for one or more Schedule 1 use.

This does not apply to childcare, school or further education settings that fall under the special consideration. These settings will be in the standard tier where they meet the criteria to be qualifying premises, which is for 200 or more individuals expected to be present at the same time, from time to time.

Requirements for enhanced tier

You will need to identify the responsible person. For universities this is likely to be the Governing Body.

In addition to the standard tier requirements to notify the regulator and ensure public protection procedures are in place, the responsible person for enhanced tier settings must:

- Ensure appropriate public protection measures are in place, so far as is reasonably practicable. Public protection measures differ from public protection procedures. See section below on public protection measures
- Document the public procedures and measures currently in place or planned and keep this up to date
- Include in this an assessment of how these steps will reduce the risk of physical harm to individuals and/or reduce the vulnerability of the premises or event. You must submit this document to the Security Industry Authority (SIA) (Section 7 of the Act) as soon as you can after it is prepared. If you revise it, submit the revised version within 30 days
- If the responsible person is an organisation or company rather than an individual, appoint a senior individual to ensure compliance

The responsible person is the individual, organisation or company that has control over the qualifying premises for the purpose of their Schedule 1 use, or control over the premises for the purposes of the qualifying event.

Control does not necessitate that the responsible person be the owner or have exclusive rights. For instance, a leaseholder, like the education institute, can hold control.

The person in control of premises for their relevant Schedule 1 use may be the occupier. The landlord must co-operate, so far as is reasonably practicable, with the responsible person of the enhanced tier premises so that the responsible person may meet the requirements of the Act.

This applies only to premises in the enhanced tier and to qualifying events, which may include those settings wholly or mainly used for higher education or further education in specific circumstances, where they have some control over the premises.

Public protection measures (enhanced tier only)

Under Section 6 of the Act, those responsible for enhanced tier premises and qualifying events must ensure appropriate public protection measures are in place, so far as is reasonably practicable. Public protection measures aim to reduce the vulnerability of premises and events to terrorist attacks and reduce the risk of physical harm to individuals if a terrorist attack were to occur.

Public protection measures fall into four categories:

1. **Monitoring** measures intended to detect suspicious behaviour or items that may be indicators of a terrorist attack. This can happen through observation, surveillance, CCTV or patrols, for example.
2. **Movement** measures intended to control, prohibit, restrict or reduce the movement of people into, out of and within premises and events.
3. **Physical safety and security** measures intended to strengthen the physical safety and security of premises and events to mitigate, deter or hinder attackers. This may be achieved through use or barriers, secure doors or hostile vehicle mitigation, for example, to deter attackers or limit the impact of an attack.
4. **Security of information** measures intended to safeguard details about the premises or an event that could help an attacker, like building plans or internal workings that are not widely available.

Implementation needs to be tailored for each setting or event. A one-size-fits-all approach is not effective. See the Home Office guidance Chapter 8.

Designating a senior individual (enhanced tier only)

If the responsible person for enhanced tier premises or a qualifying event is an organisation or company, not an individual, they must designate a senior individual.

The primary function of the senior individual is to ensure, so far as is in their power, that the responsible person complies with the requirements of the Act.

The senior individual can delegate actions to others, but they cannot delegate their overall responsibility for ensuring compliance.

The senior individual must be someone who has responsibility for managing the affairs of the responsible person or who has control of the responsible person, rather than a lower-level employee. This includes roles like a board member or a governing body member, not lower-level employees.

The senior individual is not personally liable for an organisation's failure to meet requirements.

However, senior personnel (including the senior individual) may be liable to prosecution if their organisation commits a criminal offence under the Act and it is proved that the offence was committed with their consent, connivance or occurred because of their neglect.

See Home Office guidance Chapter 8 for further detail.

Example: University in the enhanced tier

University A has a large campus with multiple teaching buildings, libraries and student facilities. It is reasonable to expect that 800 or more individuals may be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, in connection with one or more of the uses listed in Schedule 1 to the Act. For this reason, University A falls within the enhanced tier and is subject to the enhanced tier requirements.

The Governing Body of University A is the responsible person, who ensures that appropriate public protection procedures and measures are in place across the premises, so far as is reasonably practicable. These arrangements are proportionate and tailored to how different parts of the campus are used, rather than applying a single approach to all buildings.

As the responsible person is an organisation, they are required to designate a senior individual to oversee compliance with the Act's requirements. The chair of the governing body is designated as the most appropriate representative to fulfil this role. University A notifies the SIA that they are in scope of the Act and also prepares and maintains a document setting out the procedures and measures in place and submits this to the SIA.

Where other responsible persons control parts of the campus that are qualifying premises in their own right, those organisations may have separate responsibilities under the Act. In such cases, University A and the third-party operators are required to co-operate (if the third-party operators are in the enhanced tier) and co-ordinate to support compliance.

Qualifying events

Qualifying events are defined in Chapter 5 of the Home Office statutory guidance (see the Home Office qualifying events infographic here).

In education and childcare settings, qualifying events are expected to arise only in limited circumstances. This is because:

- All premises used for childcare or primary, secondary or some further education that can reasonably expect 200 or more individuals to be present at the same time, from time to time, will fall within the standard tier, even if that number is 800 individuals or greater. An event at one of these premises will not be a qualifying event and so it will not fall in scope of enhanced tier requirements. The premises would remain in the standard tier.
- The enhanced tier applies only to higher education settings and further education settings that are not captured by the special consideration where it is reasonable to expect 800 or more individuals may be present on the premises at the same time, from time to time, for one or more Schedule 1 uses.
- Where an event takes place at enhanced tier premises, the event is not considered a qualifying event under the Act. Those responsible for enhanced tier premises already have an obligation to consider and ensure that appropriate public protection procedures and measures are in place, so far as is reasonably practicable, in relation to all the activities that take place there.

This approach ensures consistency and clarity of responsibility.

A qualifying event is therefore only likely to arise in limited circumstances. Where a qualifying event does occur, the responsible person must meet the relevant requirements under the Act.

For full details, see Chapters 5 and 6 of the Home Office statutory guidance.

The Regulator: The Security Industry Authority

The regulator for the Act is the Security Industry Authority (SIA).

The SIA has powers under the Act to inspect premises and events, to gather information, and check if responsible persons are complying with the requirements of the Act.

In the most serious cases of non-compliance, the SIA may refer those responsible for prosecution if it is proportionate and in the public interest.

The SIA will publish guidance on how it proposes to exercise its functions under the Act.

It consulted on draft guidance in April 2026. Further detail on this can be found in Chapter 9 of the Home Office guidance.

Documenting compliance

The responsible person for enhanced tier premises and qualifying events must record the following information in a document and submit it to the SIA:

- a statement setting out the public protection procedures that are in place;
- a statement setting out the public protection measures that are in place or will be put in place;
- an assessment of how the public protection procedures and measures are expected to reduce the risk of harm if a terrorist attack happens;
- an assessment of how the public protection measures are expected to reduce vulnerabilities to a terrorist attack.

This document must be kept up to date. It must be given to the SIA as soon as possible after it is prepared and within 30 days of any updates. See Home Office guidance Chapter 8 for further detail.

Responsible persons should take a proactive approach to documenting compliance with the Act. The responsibility for demonstrating compliance rests with the responsible person, who should ensure that documentation is regularly reviewed, updated where necessary, and available for submission to the SIA within the timescales set out in the Act.

Templates will be developed which are optional and indicative, these will be designed to assist with the documentation of public protection procedures and measures.

Other settings

Out-of-School Settings

Out-of-school Settings (OOSS) are different from mainstream education and do not fall under Schedule 1 to the Act although they may be held at qualifying premises. OOSS typically offer activities for children outside regular school hours. Examples include:

- activities on school premises (e.g. breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, holiday clubs)
- activities in third-party facilities (e.g. residential summer camps)
- community-led education on school premises (e.g. Polish language schools, Madrasah at weekends)

An OOSS may be hosted at premises which are in scope.

OOSS delivered on an education setting premises

When an OOSS activity occurs on an education setting premises, the responsible person for the education setting must comply with the requirements of the Act.

Education settings allowing OOSS providers to use their buildings outside normal operating hours should ensure these providers understand the emergency and security procedures in place.

They should also consider these activities when planning appropriate public protection procedures, so far as is reasonably practicable.

For settings hiring premises, duties may be outlined in lease agreements or hire contracts.

This approach is consistent with the safeguarding principles set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), which emphasises the importance of effective safeguarding arrangements, risk management and site security.

Settings should therefore ensure that OOSS providers are aware of applicable safeguarding, security and emergency procedures when operating on an education setting premises, and that relevant responsibilities are clearly reflected in hire agreements or other contractual arrangements where appropriate.

OOSS delivered in community halls or private venues

If an OOSS operates in a community hall or similar venue that qualifies under the Act, the responsible person is that of the premises and they must ensure compliance with the Act.

Childminders

Childminders operating from domestic premises likely will not fall within the scope of the Act. It is unlikely that they will reasonably expect 200 or more individuals to be present at the same time, from time to time, on the premises.

Children's social care

For the purposes of this explainer guidance, children's social care consists of:

- secure children's homes
- open children's homes
- dual registered homes with both special schools and residential accommodation

Children's social care settings are not in scope of the Act where they operate from domestic or small residential premises, and do not meet the criteria of reasonably expecting 200 or more individuals at the same time, from time to time. Therefore, most children's homes, foster care arrangements, and community-based services are not in scope of the Act.

Where social care activity takes place within larger settings alongside other activities, the responsible person for those premises may have responsibilities under the Act.

Training and third-party providers

The Act does not require the responsible person or staff within an educational or childcare setting to undertake specific counter-terrorism training linked to the Act's requirements.

The Department for Education does not endorse or recommend any third-party training providers. However, it is recognised that staff responsible for implementing procedures may seek to enhance their awareness and confidence in this area. To support this, the responsible person may utilise free training resources and materials referenced within this explainer guidance.

For comprehensive details, see our resources page and Chapters 7 and 8, as well as Supplementary Document C, of the Home Office guidance.

Resources

Education and childcare settings may use the resources available within this explainer guidance; whilst not all these resources are specific to the requirements of Martyn's Law, they may assist in meeting its requirements.

Martyn's Law

- Home Office Martyn's Law Statutory Guidance The Home Office has published statutory guidance under Section 27 of the Act to enable those responsible for premises and events to determine whether they fall within the scope of the legislation and how to comply with legal duties.
- Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025: The Home Office has published guidance on the requirement to notify the Security Industry Authority (SIA) under Section 9 of the Act.
- Department for Education, Martyn's Law for education and childcare settings The Department has a published overview page providing information about Martyn's Law and how it will affect early years and education and childcare settings when it comes into force.
- ProtectUK This online hub for counter terrorism and security advice has a dedicated section on Martyn's Law which provides further information and resources, including a Martyn's Law Frequently Asked Questions page
- Security Industry Authority (SIA) The SIA is a Home Office arm's length body established by the Private Security Act 2001 as the regulator of the private security industry. The SIA is the regulator for the Act.

Additional resources

Guidance, training and advice on safety and security can be found:

- Protective security and preparedness for education settings guidance is non-statutory guidance to help education settings and childcare providers improve security awareness and sets out practical, low-cost steps to improve preparedness and response plans.
- ProtectUK is an online hub for counter terrorism and security advice, providing everyone with the knowledge and confidence to help tackle threats of terrorism.
- ACT for education is an interactive e-learning resource which helps settings identify security vulnerabilities and suspicious activity and how to respond when there is an incident.
- School and college security is non-statutory guidance to help schools and colleges develop policies and plans to manage and respond to security related incidents.

- Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings is non-statutory guidance to help settings plan for, and respond to, a range of emergencies.
- Security Minded Communication helps protect an organisation by viewing existing and planned communication through the eyes of someone intending to cause harm.
- National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) are the UK Government's national technical authority for physical and personnel protective security.

External links

- SCaN for All Staff | NPSA is an all-staff training module designed for all members of staff across an organisation, venue or event, to increase their awareness of hostile reconnaissance and how they can help counter it. The principles of See, Check and Notify can easily be translated into an education environment. SCaN for all staff training is free. It can be accessed in different ways:
  - individual learners can access a 15-minute video and quiz
  - groups of learners can access facilitation materials as well as the video to run a 30 minute or 60 minute (recommended) interactive session. This can be led by any member of staff
  - the training can be embedded into your setting's own e-learning system
- Disrupting someone intending to cause harm reconnaissance provides general guidance from NPSA
- Protecting your assets provides guidance on the NPSA protective security methodology, appropriate to more complex sites such as larger schools, further education colleges and universities
- Action Counter Terrorism (ACT) is a website where you can report suspicious activity online and in confidence
- Marauding Terrorist Attacks provides detailed guidance from NPSA, including a short animation and short film about lockdowns
- Protected spaces is further guidance from NPSA about invacuation to protected spaces
- The Catalogue of Security Equipment | NPSA helps identify appropriate physical security equipment that has been evaluated against specific NPSA security standards and achieved the requisite performance rating. If you are considering buying security equipment, first contact a Counter Terrorism Security Advisor (CTSA) via your local police force and ask for their advice and support.
- Handling media attention after a major incident is more detailed guidance on GOV.UK
- How to make a silent 999 call provides information about making a 999 call while remaining silent
- First aid in schools, early years and further education is non-statutory guidance for employers in early years, schools and colleges
- Emergency planning and preparedness: exercises and training provides

guidance on training and exercising from the Cabinet Office

- Exercise Planners Guide provides guidance to those who have to design and carry out emergency exercises
- Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) in police forces: You may be located somewhere where Policing Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) operate but it is important to note that CTSAs only work on a 1-2-1 basis with individual sites that have been deemed at higher risk or other individual settings where a real and credible threat has been identified and confirmed. They are a finite resource and only provide bespoke advice to those individual settings to support the reduction of site-specific security vulnerabilities.

Glossary

ACT - Action Counters Terrorism

Appropriate - Appropriate means suitable. Those responsible for qualifying premises and events must ensure that procedures and/or measures are appropriate, taking account of the specific context of the premises or event.

At the same time - This is a common term and is understood to mean together or simultaneously. In the Act, the term refers to individuals being present on the premises together at any one time.

Bomb threat - This is where an individual places an article or communicates information with the intention of inducing a person to believe that something is likely to explode or ignite causing harm.

Childcare provider - An individual or organisation that offers care and supervision for children, typically while their parent or guardian is at work or otherwise occupied. For the purposes of the Act, childminding on domestic premises is not in scope.

Communication - Communication is one of the four types of public protection procedure set out in the Act. Communication involves providing information to people on the premises or at the event, alerting people to danger and providing instructions, where it is safe to do so.

Compliance notice - A statutory notice issued by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) requiring the recipient to comply with a requirement of the Act within a specified period.

Co-operation - In some cases, an individual or organisation can have some level of control of premises in the enhanced tier or a qualifying event without being the responsible person. In these circumstances, they must co-operate with the responsible person, so far as is reasonably practicable, to help meet the Act's requirements. Additionally, where premises form part of larger qualifying premises, they may need to co-operate with the responsible person for the larger premises for the purposes of that responsible person complying with the requirements of the Act.

Co-ordination - In some cases, there may be multiple responsible persons for qualifying premises or events. They must co-ordinate with each other, so far as is reasonably practicable, to meet the Act's requirements. Additionally, where qualifying premises form part of other qualifying premises, the responsible persons must co-ordinate with each other, so far as is reasonably practicable, to meet the Act's requirements.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) - The person in a setting or organisation that is responsible for keeping children and vulnerable individuals safe. The DSL is responsible for overseeing and managing all aspects of safeguarding and child protection with the setting or organisation.

Education settings - For the purpose of this guidance, education settings cover primary and secondary education settings, further and higher education settings and alternative provisions.

Enhanced tier - The Act establishes a tiered approach for premises – the standard tier and the enhanced tier. Enhanced tier premises are qualifying premises that can reasonably expect 800 or more individuals to be present at any one time, from time to time, for the purpose of a Schedule 1 use.

Evacuation - Evacuation is one of the four types of public protection procedure set out in the Act. Evacuation involves getting people away from danger by moving them out of the premises or event (or part of the premises or event).

From time to time - This means occasionally. In the Act, the phrase ‘from time to time’ is used within the definition of qualifying premises and it refers to how often 200 or more individuals (including staff) can reasonably be expected to be present on the premises at the same time.

Governing body - A governing body is the group of people legally responsible for overseeing how a school, further education or higher education setting is run.

Incident - A security issue that affects your setting.

Invacuation - This is one of the four types of public protection procedure set out in the Act. Invacuation involves moving people away from danger to a place within the premises or event where there is less risk of physical harm being caused to them. This can include bringing people into the premises or event from outside or moving people from one part of the premises or event to another, where it is safe to do so.

Lockdown - This is one of the four types of public protection procedure set out in the Act. Lockdown is the process of securing the premises or event, to prevent individuals entering or leaving.

Out-of-school setting (OOSS) - Any non-registered organisation or individual providing activities, tuition, or instruction to children without parental supervision, outside of schools, colleges, or Ofsted registered childcare.

Principal use - Where premises have multiple Schedule 1 uses (set out in Schedule 1 to the Act), the relevant Schedule 1 use is whichever of those uses is the principal use of the premises. The individual or organisation with control of the premises for the purposes of its principal Schedule 1 use is the responsible person.

Protective security - Protective Security is the term given to the act of managing the risks to an organisation's assets.

Public protection measures - Public protection measures are measures relating to monitoring, movement, physical safety and security, and security of information. These measures seek to reduce the risk of physical harm to people and reduce the vulnerability of the premises or event to terrorist attacks. Public protection measures are relevant to enhanced tier premises and qualifying events.

Public protection procedures - Public protection procedures are sets of actions that staff can take if they suspect an act of terrorism is occurring, or is about to occur, at the premises, at the event or in the immediate vicinity. The procedures are evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication. Public protection procedures seek to reduce the risk of physical harm to people. Public protection procedures are relevant to standard tier premises, enhanced tier premises, and qualifying events.

Proprietor - A proprietor is simply the person or organisation that owns something. For education and childcare settings (schools/nurseries): the proprietor is the individual or body legally responsible for running the school, for example, the Academy Trust, or owner of an independent school.

Responsible person or responsible persons - For qualifying premises, this is the individual, organisation or company with control of the qualifying premises for the purpose of its Schedule 1 use. For qualifying events, this is the individual, organisation or company with control of the premises at which the qualifying event is taking place for the purposes of the event. The responsible person must ensure that the requirements of the Act are met.

Schedule 1 use (Schedule 1 to the Act) - A Schedule 1 use is one of the specific types of activities listed in Schedule 1 to the Act. Premises that are wholly or mainly used for any of these activities may fall within the scope of the legislation, if they meet the other criteria under Section 2 of the Act, and therefore become qualifying premises.

Security Industry Authority (SIA) - The regulator for the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025.

Security lead - The person responsible for coordinating and overseeing your setting's protective security and preparedness work.

Senior individual - Where the responsible person for enhanced tier premises or a qualifying event is an organisation or company, a senior individual must be designated to ensure compliance with the Act. The senior individual is someone who is involved in the management or control of the responsible person.

Standard tier - The Act establishes a tiered approach for premises – the standard and enhanced tiers. Standard tier premises are qualifying premises that can reasonably expect 200 to 799 individuals to be present at the same time, from time to time, for the purpose of a Schedule 1 use.

Qualifying event - Events meeting the criteria set out in Section 3 of the Act and subject to enhanced tier requirements.

Qualifying premises - Premises meeting the criteria set out in Section 2 of the Act. Depending on the number of individuals that can reasonably be expected to be on the premises, qualifying premises may be subject to standard or enhanced tier requirements.

Vulnerability - Weaknesses that may be exploited by an attacker to achieve an impact, such as harm to people or the organisation. The presence of a threat is required to exploit a vulnerability.

Department for Education

© Crown copyright 2026

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3.

Where we have identified any third-party copyright information, you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

About this publication:

enquiries www.gov.uk/contact-dfe
download www.gov.uk/government/publications

Follow us on X: @educationgovuk
Connect with us on Facebook: facebook.com/educationgovuk