

Martyn's Law (Environmental Services, Robert Smith)

Synopsis of report:

This is an information only report to update Members on the proposed introduction of the Protect Duty known as 'Martyn's Law' later in 2023

Recommendation(s):

None. This report is for information

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 On Monday 19 December, the Government announced details for the Protect Duty, now to be known as 'Martyn's Law' in tribute of Martyn Hett, who was killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017.
- 1.2 There have been 14 terror attacks in the UK since 2017, the terrorist threat we currently face is continually evolving. As such, it remains difficult to predict which locations could be targeted by terrorists with attempts being harder to spot and harder to stop.
- 1.3 The aim is to improve security and ensure robust, proportionate, and consistent measures at public places to make sure we can better prepare and improve public security, in light of possible future attacks.
- 1.4 It is not yet known how much this will become entwined with the Licensing Act 2003 and whether meeting the requirements of Martyn's Law will be a deciding factor in the granting of licences. In the meantime, it is important that members are aware of this new law as it will affect many events, not just licensed premises, in particular it will add to the Council's responsibilities.

2. Report

- 2.1 Martyn's Law's aim is to reduce the risk to the public from terrorism by the protection of public venues.
- 2.2 It will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.
- 2.3 The legislation will ensure parties are prepared, ready to respond and know what to do in the event of an attack. Better protection will be delivered through enhanced security systems, staff training, and clearer processes.
- 2.4 Draft legislation is expected in spring 2023 but implementation will depend on Parliamentary time.
- 2.5 The Home Office Martyn's Law factsheet is attached at Appendix 'A'.

3. Policy framework implications

3.1 The introduction of Martyn's Law will have wide ranging implications for the public and private sector. Many events and venues will fall under the scope of this legislation, it is expected that wider publicity and information will be available as enactment draws closer.

3.2 It is not yet known how much this will become entwined with the Licensing Act 2003 and whether meeting the requirements of Martyn's Law will be a deciding factor in the granting of licences.

4. **Timetable for Implementation**

4.1 Draft legislation is expected in spring 2023 but implementation will depend on Parliamentary time.

(For information)

Background papers

Home Office Protect UK

[Protect Duty Update – Martyn's Law to ensure stronger protections against terrorism in publicplaces | ProtectUK](#)