

# Accreditation Systems & Martyn's Law:

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS  
FOR THE UK EVENTS SECTOR



# Executive Summary

With the royal ascent granted to the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 back in April, we are rapidly approaching the halfway mark of the 2-year implementation period. Although official guidance has not yet been released, we are encouraging both our existing clients along with any event organisers to start their readiness journeys now.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, otherwise known as Martyn's Law, represents the most significant change to event security legislation in a generation. For event organisers, understanding how it affects both your planning & live operations is crucial, implementing a variety of security measures to demonstrate a robust approach to counter terrorism.

The role of an accreditation system – is an evolution from an operational department to forming part of your active security & response plans.

With serious penalties outlined in Martyn's Law, we would encourage event organisers to use this opportunity to review how their current processes and access controls can help demonstrate their compliance with the act, keeping their event sites safe. Within the below paper we will be looking at some of the required measures that event organisers will be mandated to comply with and how available event technology can satisfy those requirements.

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# Introduction

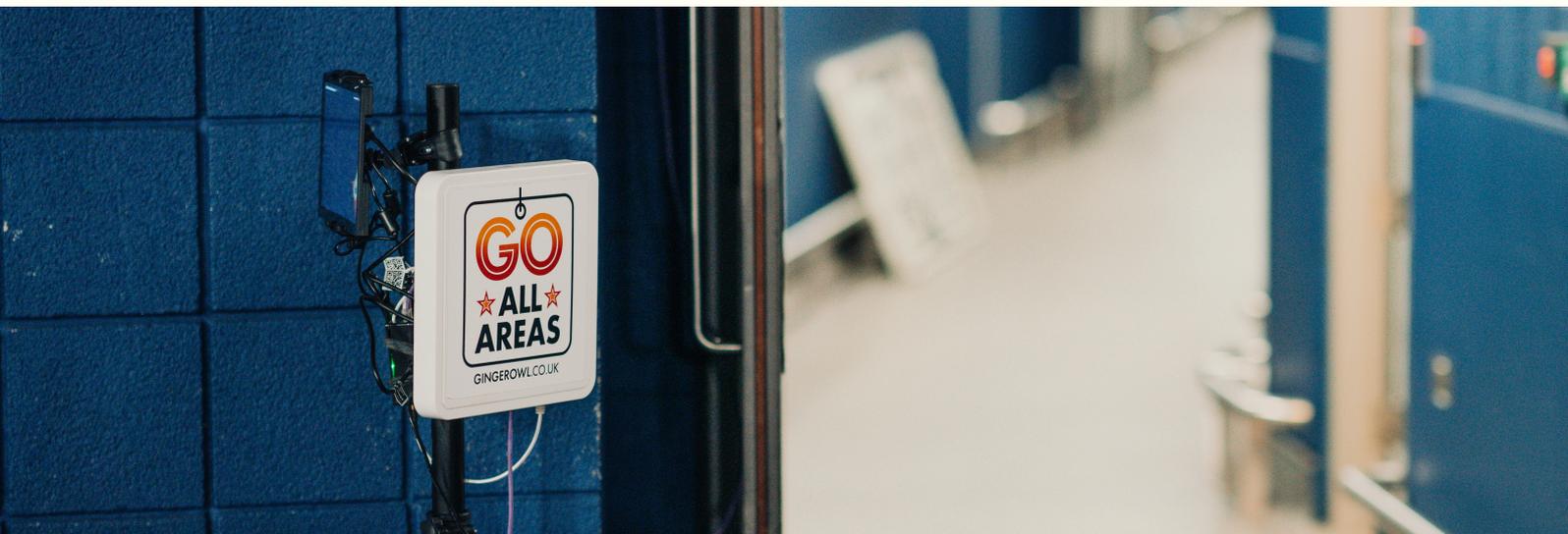
From the definitions provided of who will be required to show compliance with this act, we believe that it is likely that the majority of events in the UK sector will be affected. Our aim is to help provide clarity for some of the measures that event organisers and venue owners will be expected to demonstrate in their security plans.

For the purposes of this paper, we will be focusing on the areas of access control and communication planning. We believe that Martyn's Law further moves the function of accreditation into the security scope to work alongside the physical measures of the security forces to ensure a secure event.



Martyn's Law's mandated procedures & measures cover several areas that security mitigations such as bag or personal searches, ingress & egress plans, CCTV etc will be needed.

**This will not be in the scope for this paper.**



# Background & Context

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## 1. Overview of the UK Festival and Live Events Landscape

Firstly, it's important to highlight the scale and diversity of the UK Markets.

Recent research by the **Association of Independent Festivals (AIF)** identified **592 music festivals** taking place in the UK in 2025. All those festivals would have likely had 800+ people on site (workers, artist & audience combined) at a given time putting them in the enhanced premises & qualifying event categories within the legislation.

It is estimated that there are over 1000 sporting events during a year that would also fall into the above qualifying categories.

One off TV, film or product launches, concerts, award ceremonies, live TV recordings will easily also become qualifying.

## 2. Overview of Martyn's Law

### What is the basis of this law.

Martyn's Law, officially known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, is named after Martyn Hett, one of 22 people killed in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack on 22 May 2017. The legislation aims to ensure that venues and event organisers have appropriate security measures in place to protect the public from terrorist threats.

Following the attack, the Manchester Arena Inquiry identified significant security failings. Martyn's Law seeks to prevent similar tragedies by requiring venues and event organisers to take proactive steps to prepare for and protect against terrorist attacks.

### The legislations' main objective is:



Ensuring a designated responsible person is in place for the qualifying venue(s) or event(s), with accountability for implementing appropriate public protection procedures to reduce the risk of physical harm to individuals in the event of an act of terrorism occurring on the premises, at the event or in the immediate vicinity.



## WHO IT APPLIES TO

### Standard Tier

Applies to:

Premises and events with a capacity of **200-799 people in spaces such as** leisure centres, galleries, shops, event spaces etc

### Enhanced Tier

Applies to:

Premises and events with a capacity of **800+ people**. With green field spaces it will become qualifying if ticketed or otherwise access controlled.

### Responsible Person

Applies to:

- **Venues:** Person responsible for controlling the venue.
- **Events:** Either person with control of the venue, the event or both. This can be a sole or joint responsibility. Eg Venue operator & event organiser.
- Where the venue owner or event organiser is a company, they must designate a **responsible person**.

## KEY OBLIGATIONS

Public protection procedures include:

Evacuating Safely out of the venue or event.

Lockdown procedures & a plan for evacuating safely to a place internally where the risk of harm is reduced

Preventing individuals entering or leaving the premises or event.

Providing information to individuals on the premises or at the event.

For enhanced premises or qualifying events on occupancy over 800 at a given time, venues & event organisers must document, submit to the Security Industry Authority (SIA) & demonstrate their approach to the above public protection procedures as well as:

- Assess and keep under review the public protection measures that are appropriate to further the objective.
- So far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that such measures are in place in addition to the procedures above.
- Reduce the vulnerability of the premises or event to acts of terrorism.
- Reduce the risk of physical harm being caused to individuals if an act of terrorism were to occur on the premises.
- Monitoring of the premises or event and the immediate vicinity of the premises or event.
- The movement of individuals into, out of and within the premises or event.
- The physical safety and security of the premises or the premises at which the event is to be held.
- The security of information in relation to the premises or event.

The exact framework and 'how to' guide is in progress with the government & further guidance will be reviewed and shared once it's released.

Below we will explore how we see dedicated accreditation systems becoming a very useful tool for event organisers to strengthen their processes and demonstrate best efforts.

# Alignment Between Accreditation Systems & Martyn's Law

## 1. Areas of Natural Alignment

We naturally see accreditation systems directly supporting these two objectives for enhanced premises and qualifying events:

**“The movement of individuals into, out of and within the premises or event”**

**“The security of information in relation to the premises or event”**

Accreditation systems like GOAllAreas are a very robust solution to ensuring that you are demonstrating due diligence around access control. Keeping your data within a secure system, where event management can review access requests along with strong on the ground support, checking ID's on collection and spotting access attempts is crucial.

With most events this is demonstrated for the public by using ticketing, this ensures you have given your back of house areas of the event the same consideration. The person may have a toolkit and a high-vis but they still need the same level of verification.

Using accreditation systems can help with your compliance against many UK regulations without you having to use a different system for each one therefore bringing a more efficient & streamline solution to your event.

By enhancing your accreditation system to work seamlessly with QR and RFID enabled pass scanning at external entry gates (and high security internal areas), you will have a digital log of who is within the footprint of your event. This can help you in several ways.

- Switch an individual's access on or off instantaneously.
- Lock off access to areas of site deemed unsafe.
- Ability to report on 'who's on site' at a given moment which is invaluable to an emergency management plan.
- Ability to review a last scanned location to help locate an individual onsite.
- Compare scan events to CCTV time stamps.
- Instantly verify if a pass is real or a copy.

By using an accreditation system, most workflows will entail that emails are sent out to the individuals to complete their access. With a broadcast facility, a system can also bulk-message all or defined groups of individuals with important real-time messaging.

How events communicate will matter, they will need a "process of alerting people on the premises or at the event to the danger, e.g. providing instructions to remain in place or move away from any danger. (protect UK)"

This is pertinent to demonstrating that you have an appropriate communication method to get urgent messaging out to your workers. With this increase of requirement, the event will feel the shift in focus in ensuring everyone is doing their utmost to deliver a safe event.

Using an accreditation system will benefit the event by;

- Increased security compliance, culture & awareness.
- You can insert the published ACT training into inductions to ensure all staff are trained and thinking about your events safety.
- Accountability & Reporting.
- Up to date reporting, live scan logs, history tracking, who's on site reporting. Risk reduction – protecting your entry points.
- Individualised access control, ID verification.
- Real-time readiness.
- Immediate information on hand, ability to systematically retract access immediately, bulk vital information messaging.



By centralising access control and combining RFID scanning technology, platforms such as GOAllAreas with hardware from our partners at Access93 can work with an event organiser to design zoning plans, allocate zones to workers based on role and requirement, with access points clearly indicating to staff if they can enter.



## 2. Gaps and Challenges

It takes a true culture of security awareness across all departments to strengthen an events approach. By making it simpler, quicker and easier, with real-time information at an event organisers' fingertips it can make all the difference.

With large events using many casual workers it's very important to make sure your process is scalable to ensure compliance across all departments.

Budgetary challenge is present in some of the UK's live sector. Sometimes implementing new technology can be daunting and there is a perceived expectation that it adds considerable extra cost onto an already tight budget. There are solutions available for all budgets and any cost must be weighed against knowing you are creating a safe environment for your audiences to enjoy whilst being aware that the potential hefty penalty notices that many of these regulations carry for non-compliance.

# Practical Considerations for Implementation

## 1. For Event and Festival Organisers

Accreditation systems like GOAllAreas (GOAA) can bring together systems that are currently operating isolated from each other. This has already been proven in the world of event health & safety with individual inductions & document submissions being managed cohesively within the system, saving numerous time-consuming emails.

We have found that the implementation of an accreditation system has reduced the email traffic and resource hours required to gather information from individuals needed to pass access control.

This next step is aligning accreditation systems into staff management, access control and event control processes to ensure rapid responses & clear data in the event of an emergency. Bringing accreditation systems into that process will ultimately protect your workers and strengthen your position against terrorism.

These systems should be resilient and scalable and be able to be used in the same appropriate manner on a smaller scale event as much as an event with tens of thousands of people.

We have found that event security firms that operate on events using our RFID pass scanning module and accreditation systems such as GOAA have reported that it helps empower their staff. When deployed on unfamiliar sites and given new pass systems to learn, having the scanner guide and inform the steward whether that individual is permitted to enter or not takes pressure off them and helps make their role clearer.

Until now, accreditation as a function was very standalone but now, more than ever, it's becoming the vital first checkpoint to protect events. Data is fast becoming more and more fluid and valuable to an event to analyse where people are going and when. As with crowd behaviour, the data on staff passes can help with area capacities, footfall, aiding correct security deployments based on volume of scans throughout the event site. Being able to review data in real time in order to make operational decisions is becoming vitally important.

# Risk, Assurance, & Accountability

A big part of new legislations or regulations is to make sure that as an event, you are demonstrating that you have considered the safety of the public along with that of your workers and as best as reasonably practicable, you have processes & procedures that show your best efforts.

With your current methods, can you demonstrate readiness? Is the data easy to collate of who is where? Can you disseminate vital information instantly? Do you know who is on site and whether they are in a sensitive area?

With the following fines and penalties laid out in the act, it is imperative that event organisers invest in their events future.

## Compliance Notices

Time & evidence-based resolution.

## Restriction Notices

Venue use, number of attendees, event green light or not, time restrictions.

## Penalty Notices

### Maximum £5000

Individual responsible person non-compliance.

### Maximum £10,000

Standard Duty Premises non-compliance.

### Maximum £18 million or 5% Worldwide revenue for the accounting period (whichever greater)

Enhanced Premises or Qualifying Event non-compliance.

## CONTINUED NON-COMPLIANCE

If a compliance or restriction notice remains unactioned past the required date.

**Max £500 per day**  
for standard premises.

**Max £50,000 per day**  
for Enhanced premises  
or qualifying event.

It is essential that the event organisers and venue operators have a security and accreditation system in place to demonstrate evidential Compliance, Governance, Accountability and Responsibility.

## PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS UNDER THE NEW LAW



### Standard Tier

200 - 799 people

- **£10,000**  
Max Penalty
- **£500 Daily**  
Penalty for non-compliance



### Enhanced Tier

800+ people

- The greater of **£18 million or 5%**  
Worldwide Revenue Max Penalty.
- **£50,000 Daily**  
Penalty for non-compliance

### Powers & Warnings

The SIA can also issue compliance or restriction notices.

Failure to comply with these notices or providing false information constitutes a criminal offence.

Senior officers in Enhanced Tier venues may face prosecution for offences committed with their knowledge.



# Future Outlook

While the government has not yet released the detailed criteria it will use to assess compliance, it is clear that the existing requirements will affect nearly every event in some capacity. For organisations that already have strong security measures and systems in place, the primary impact may be simply procedural with the emphasis on requiring more formal documentation and reporting rather than significant operational change.

For others, however, achieving compliance may necessitate the introduction and implementation of new processes, technologies, or security solutions to meet the required standards.

# Conclusions

What we believe to be key in summary of Martyn's Law is that it is going to affect the event industry. It brings forward a real need to demonstrate cohesive working between security, event operations and departments such as accreditation.

We have already seen in events the true value of having a good accreditation system and when paired with scanning, you are showing true diligence that your staff entrance processes are as robust and protected as your audiences. The use of a system with scanning makes every pass significantly more accountable, traceable and controllable.

The real-time view of people on site and ability to respond quickly if the landscape changes is paramount within the expectations of Martyn's Law and by using an accreditation system such as GOAllAreas, that information can be in the hands of your event control team immediately.

In closing, a proportional, risk-based approach will be essential to achieving effective compliance without creating unnecessary burden. Approaches and solutions should be scaled to suit the size, nature, and risk profile of each event. This helps make implementation practical but it also encourages wider, more consistent adoption across the sector.

# Who are we



**Ginger Owl Productions** is an award-winning live events production company and leading provider of staffing and event management software.

The company specialise in delivering meticulously planned, seamlessly executed, schedule-driven events with exceptional results.

Our mission is to streamline live event operations, combining our long-standing industry relationships, our passionate, friendly and well-trained team members, and our event management platform, GOAllAreas. We operate to the highest standards and love what we do, sharing our expertise in back of house event management and compliance with our clients.



# References

## AIF Research

<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/148116/html>

## Current Guidance

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law>

## Festival organisers explain the steps they take to secure temporary events.

[https://www.protectuk.police.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/festival\\_republic.mp4](https://www.protectuk.police.uk/sites/default/files/2025-04/festival_republic.mp4)

## Terrorism (Protection of Premises Act) 2025

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law>

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