

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
DATE**

Officer: Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

MARTYN'S LAW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To Update the Committee on Martyn's Law and how it might impact on the Town Council
2. To provide direction on commentary for the existing Home Office Consultation

MARTYN'S LAW

This Committee have previously been appraised about the need for Martyn's Law. Named after an individual who lost his life at the Manchester Arena in May 2017, the Terrorism Protection of Premises Bill is designed to place a statutory duty on owners of land and buildings that are frequented by public to protect them from any extremist/terrorist incident.

This Counter Terrorism prevention need has been on the Town Council's radar since 2017 when Lets Rock was the first major concert after the Manchester bombing and Officers were required to put measures in place to protect the public.

Since that time the Council has worked under a Security Management Policy which is considered by this Committee in its May meeting.

In May 2023, the Home Office published the draft bill which was considered by the Home Affairs Select Committee which reported back on its findings to the Home Office in early Autumn. As a result of those recommendations, the Home Office is further consulting on various aspects of the Bill and the consultation period expires on 18th March.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

The Bill deals with Qualifying Premises, Qualifying Events, the provision of a Regulator and the duty to co-operate and co-ordinate with others and sets out the penalties for non-compliance.

Going by current knowledge of the Bill, the following Town Council activity will be in scope of the legislation:

- Shrewsbury Market Hall
- Castlefields Community Centre
- Ditherington Community Centre
- Grange Youth Centre
- Quarry Park – Krazy Races, Food Festival, Lets Rock, Shrewsbury Flower Show & Oktoberfest

For premises with a capacity of 100-799 there will be a requirement to meet various standard tier requirements around detailing the operational procedures in protecting the public from a terrorist attack. For those premises and events with a capacity in excess of 800 more detailed plans will be required which will include physical measures to prevent a terrorist attack.

UNDERSTANDING OF LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The Town Council is well site on the provisions with the Town Clerk sitting on the SLCC/NALC Joint Working Group which liaises with the Home Office. Implications for both the Standard and Enhanced Tiers are being looked at. All larger event organisers are sighted on the need for their Event Management Plans & Security Plans to start to address the provisions of the proposed legislation so that by the time the legislation and provisions are enacted, it is normal way of working. All front facing operational staff have undertaken Action Counters Terrorism Training and are comfortable with what to do in the event of Suspicious Packages, Suspicious Individuals, Vehicles used as Weapons and Marauding Attackers. The Town Clerk has also begin to liaise with officers responsible for other Public Buildings in the town that will be in scope of this legislation; these include the Shopping Centre, Castle, Theatre & Museum to ensure there is a consistency of approach in dealing with similar incidents and there is the clarity of communications across the town.

CONSULTATION

Currently the Home Office is consulting on the Standard Tier Arrangements [Martyn's Law: standard tier consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/martyns-law-standard-tier-arrangements) which now include the following requirements:

- Notify the Regulator that they are or have become responsible for premises within scope of the legislation
- Have in place procedural measures that could be expected to reduce, so far as reasonably practicable, the risk of harm to individuals at the premises in the event of an attack and have the necessary training and awareness of staff to undertake those procedures

Removed from the original Bill is the requirement to complete a Standard Terrorism Evaluation and ensure that people working at the premises have specific Counter Terrorism Training.

There is much angst within the Local Council sector about whether these measures pose difficulties for the Councils, but given already existing duties under other legislation it is the view of Officers that if legislation is required to protect the public, then measures should be put in place. It is also argued that having a Standard Template, in the same way we operate Fire Risk Assessments under a Standard Template, will ensure consistency across public buildings. Equally undertaking Counter Terrorism Training, similar to the training all operational staff have undertaken creates terrorism aware public servants and members of the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Report be noted
- (ii) That the Town Clerk respond to the Consultation in as set out above
- (iii) That the Town Clerk continues to prepare the Council for the rollout of legislation