



ASSOCIATION  
OF EVENT  
VENUES

nQ legal®

## NQ LEGAL BRIEFS

### Note on human rights ramifications of Martyn's Law

Martyn's Law received Royal Assent on 3 April 2025. It introduces new legal duties for qualifying premises and events to assess and mitigate terrorism risks. A phased implementation is expected over the next 24 months.

#### Human Rights Considerations

Martyn's Law interacts with several key human rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), as incorporated by the Human Rights Act 1998:

Right	Relevance
Article 5 - Right to Liberty and Security	Temporary detention or restriction of movement during lockdown or security incidents must be lawful, proportionate, and time-limited.
Article 8 - Right to Privacy	Surveillance (e.g. CCTV), personal data collection
Article 10 - Freedom of Expression	Venue operations (e.g. religious/cultural gatherings)
Article 11 - Freedom of Assembly	Crowd control, access restrictions, event disruption
Article 14 - Prohibition of Discrimination	Risk of profiling or disproportionate targeting of groups

## Government Safeguards

The legislation includes the following safeguards in respect of human rights:

- Proportionality principle: Requirements scale based on venue size and risk level.
- Risk-based approach: Measures should be necessary and justified, not blanket.
- Implementation guidance: Emphasises inclusive, non-discriminatory practices.
- Review mechanisms: Decisions and enforcement actions are subject to legal challenge and oversight.

## Practical Compliance Guidance

To remain compliant with both Martyn's Law and human rights legislation:

- Ensure any temporary restrictions of movement (e.g. lockdown procedures) are clearly documented, legally justified, and not excessive in duration or scope (Article 5).
- Design security protocols proportionately (e.g. targeted bag checks, clearly signposted surveillance).
- Conduct privacy and equality impact assessments.
- Train staff to avoid profiling or discriminatory behaviour during checks or enforcement.
- Consult legal teams when introducing restrictive or invasive measures.

## Your Next Steps

- Review internal security and emergency policies for ECHR alignment.
- Monitor official guidance from the Security Industry Authority (SIA).
- Begin preparing compliance documentation and training ahead of enforcement.

Feel free to **contact us** to discuss this or any other issues or queries you may have relating to venue operation and the law:

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We are AEV's official legal services partner, and we are here to help.