

The Critical Role of Communication

While the guidance lists these as four procedures, in a real-world scenario, they are entirely independent.

Communication is the operational trigger; without it, the other three cannot be activated in time to save lives.

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 Statutory Guidance - Updated April 2026

What the new guidance means for your premises

April 15th 2026 marked a major milestone in the implementation of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, more commonly known as **Martyn's Law**. The Home Office officially published the Section 27 Statutory Guidance providing the clearest roadmap yet, for what is required before the law comes into full effect in April 2027.



COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS

7.11 The four public protection procedures in the Act are set out at figure 7.

- **Evacuation:** The process of getting people away from danger by moving them out of the premises or event (or part of the premises or event).
- **Invacuation:** The process of 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 to another, where it is safe to do so.
- **Lockdown:** The process of securing the premises or event to prevent individuals entering or leaving (for example, to restrict or prevent the movement of an attacker by locking doors, closing shutters or using available barriers).
- **Communication:** The process of ensuring information is provided to individuals at the premises or event (for example, alerting people to danger as quickly as possible and providing instructions to remain in place or move away, where it is safe to do so).

7.46 The purpose of a communication procedure is to ensure information is provided to people at the premises or event, **alerting them to danger as quickly as possible** if an attack is taking place.

7.47 Effective communication with those on the premises or at the event is essential to enable the other procedures to be started quickly, **reducing the risk of harm to people**. Communication can take many forms, **including verbal communication, signage**, posters, briefings and **audio broadcasts**. Communication could include a range of messaging such as to move inside and stay away from windows, to move to a designated safer space or safe exit route, to move to the back of the building to wait for further instructions, or simply to get down, stay quiet and stay hidden. This information should be **shared quickly**.

7.48 In addition to the considerations at paras. 7.20 to 7.32, when developing a communication procedure, the responsible person should consider:

- Information should be **simple and clear** to ensure any instructions are easy to understand and should be specific to the actions required to follow the relevant procedure.
- How to **quickly share information** in the way that works best for the premises or event.

7.49 When developing a communication procedure, the responsible person for larger and more complex premises or qualifying events should also consider:

- **Where people may be located when information is communicated and whether information will reach them effectively in those areas.**
- **How each procedure will be communicated effectively.** For example, the instructions communicated for an evacuation procedure should be different to the instructions communicated for a lockdown procedure.

7.33 The purpose of an evacuation procedure is to get people away from danger by moving them out of the premises or event, or a part of the premises or event. In developing an evacuation procedure, the responsible person should consider how plans will vary according to the specific circumstances of their qualifying premises or qualifying event. The below considerations are not exhaustive, but those responsible should also consider:

- whether the attack is taking place inside or outside the premises
- **how people will be directed to follow the evacuation procedure in response to an attack how staff at the premises or event will direct people to move away from danger**

7.36 In addition to the considerations at paras. 7.20 to 7.32, when developing an evacuation procedure, the responsible person should consider:

- How evacuation plans for terrorist attacks complement, and do not conflict with, the evacuation plans for fire emergencies. This includes how an evacuation procedure for a terrorist attack would be communicated to people. For example, where possible, evacuation plans for terrorist attacks **should avoid using the normal fire alarm** on the basis that people may respond inappropriately to the threat.
- Whether it is safer for people to move away from the premises, the event and the immediate vicinity instead of gathering in a specific place nearby. Dispersal from the premises is likely to be the most appropriate action rather than gathering in one place. This is because a specified gathering point could be exploited by a terrorist during an attack, especially where that point is publicly advertised or can be predicted.