LEON GUARDING | Security, compliance and risk intelligence from Leon Guarding & FM Limited

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LEON INSIDER

THIS MONTH

The biggest month for security legislation in a decade. Martyn's Law guidance finally lands, the SIA opens its enforcement consultation, and the Crime and Policing Act reaches the statute book.

LEAD STORY | MARTYN'S LAW GUIDANCE PUBLISHED — THE CLOCK IS NOW VISIBLE

On 15 April the Home Office published its Section 27 statutory guidance under the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. This is the document venue operators have been waiting for since Royal Assent a year ago. It explains who is in scope, how the duties will be interpreted, and what "reasonably practicable" looks like in practice.

Scope is decided by capacity — including staff

- **Standard tier:** 200–799 people reasonably expected to be present at the same time
- **Enhanced tier:** 800 or more
- Places of worship, childcare settings and most educational establishments stay in the standard tier regardless of size. Events are assessed separately from premises.

Timing: the implementation period runs at least 24 months from 3 April 2025. Duties are expected to commence around April 2027. We are past the midpoint.

Source: Home Office statutory guidance, 15 April 2026

MARTYN'S LAW | THE NEXT STEPS

With the statutory guidance now published, venue operators can start to prepare in more detail. Here are the key requirements depending on which tier you fall into, and what to focus on.

What standard tier must do

put in place public protection procedures — evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication — and ensure staff are instructed in them. No physical works required.

What enhanced tier must also do

implement public protection measures covering monitoring, movement of people, physical security and security of information, and produce a compliance document for the SIA.

The detail that matters most

for enhanced tier, the compliance document is not a checklist. It must explain what is in place, assess how it is expected to reduce harm, and justify any departure from what would normally be expected. The guidance builds critical thinking into the legal obligation itself.

REGULATOR | SIA OPENS CONSULTATION ON HOW IT WILL ENFORCE

On the same day, the SIA launched a public consultation on its draft Section 12 guidance — the document setting out how it intends to exercise its regulatory powers under Martyn's Law. It closes on 12 June 2026.

This is not about what venues must do; it is about how the regulator will inspect, assess and enforce.

The SIA's powers will include receiving notifications from both tiers, reviewing enhanced-tier documentation, giving advice, and issuing compliance notices, restriction notices and monetary penalties.

If you operate in-scope premises, this consultation is your opportunity to influence how proportionately the regime is applied. Responses are open to anyone with an interest.

Security Industry Authority

Consultation closes
12 June 2026

Responses are open to anyone with an interest.

Source: Home Office statutory guidance, 15 April 2026

LEGISLATION | CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2026 RECEIVES ROYAL ASSENT

The Crime and Policing Bill became law on 29 April. It runs to 257 sections and 27 schedules, with over 70 new measures. Three matter directly to site security:

A standalone offence of assaulting a retail worker, carrying a possible six-month custodial sentence, covering everyone from supermarket staff to independent convenience stores

Repeal of the £200 **low-value** shoplifting **threshold**, which had downgraded the police response to theft below that value

Respect Orders, allowing courts to ban persistent offenders from named town centres and locations

Some provisions took effect on Royal Assent; many others follow via commencement orders, with a significant tranche due at the end of June. The retail worker assault offence requires the Home Secretary to issue regulations, guidance and police classification codes before enforcement begins.

The BRC's chief executive welcomed the Act as a turning point, while making the obvious point: stronger laws send a warning, but consistent visible enforcement is what actually keeps staff safe.

DATA | ONS CRIME FIGURES

ONS figures for the year ending December 2025 recorded 509,566 shoplifting offences in England and Wales — a 1% decline, and the first annual drop in some time.

The BRC's response was measured: police-recorded figures capture only reported incidents, and their own survey shows 5.5 million detected thefts. The gap between the two numbers is the story.

BY THE NUMBERS

200 / 800
the capacity thresholds for standard and enhanced tier

12 June 2026
SIA Section 12 consultation closes

~April 2027
expected commencement of Martyn's Law duties

509,566
police-recorded shoplifting offences, year to December 2025

£10,000 / £18m or 5%
maximum penalties, standard and enhanced tier

Source: Home Office statutory guidance, 15 April 2026

FROM LEON GUARDING

In the community | HOPE Family Barking food bank

Team members again gave their time to the HOPE Family Barking food bank this month — part of a monthly commitment we have kept since last year, supporting families across the local community.

PRACTICAL TIP | FOUR QUESTIONS TO CLOSE OUT THIS QUARTER

Now that the guidance is published, awareness is no longer a defensible position. If you control publicly accessible premises:

01 Have you calculated capacity including staff? This is the single figure that decides your tier, and getting it wrong in either direction is costly.

02 Have you named a responsible person for each site? The duty sits with whoever is in control, not necessarily the owner, and it cannot be delegated away.

03 Do your four procedures exist on paper? Evacuation, invacuation, lockdown, communication. If they live in someone's head, they do not exist.

04 Are your officers trained and is that training evidenced? Instruction records are what the regulator will ask for.

Leon Guarding is supporting clients with capacity assessments, procedure drafting and officer briefing ahead of commencement. If your sites sit near the 200 or 800 thresholds, talk to us before the year end — the preparation window is roughly eleven months.