

Terrorism Threat Evaluation & Risk Assessment

The issue at which this draft legislation is aimed is the lack of mandatory requirements for those operating premises or events open to the public to consider terrorist threats and apply proportionate protective security preparations.

The strategic objectives are clearly stated: to keep citizens safe and secure; reduce the impact of terrorist attacks where they do occur; provide clarity on responsibility for security activity; and improve consistency in security considerations and outcomes.

In brief, qualifying public premises will be subject to the requirements in the Bill. Section 2 defines them as having a minimum public capacity of 100 people; public access and use falling within Schedule 1. This includes activities such as entertainment, leisure, health care and education. Qualifying premises can also be contained within other premises (for example, stores within a shopping centre). Where this is the case, the Bill will apply to each of those premises as well as the larger premises, if they are each qualifying public premises.

Qualifying public premises are then separated into two tiers. Section 3 sets out that standard duty premises have a capacity of between 100 and 799 people, and enhanced duty premises have a capacity of 800 or more.

Qualifying public events with a capacity of 800 or more are generally subject to the same requirements as enhanced duty premises (see section 4).

Standard duty requirements include simple, low-cost activities which seek to improve protective security and preparedness. This includes:

- undertaking a standard terrorism evaluation at least annually (see section 11), and
- providing relevant workers with appropriate terrorism protection training (see section 13).

Requirements for enhanced duty premises and qualifying public events include:

- an enhanced terrorism risk assessment, that is reviewed with each material change to or use of the premises and at least annually (see section 12)
- terrorism protection training for relevant workers (see section 13);
- reasonably practicable security measures to be put in place (see section 15);
- the appointment of a designated senior officer (see section 16)
- the preparation and maintenance of a security plan (see section 17).

For those premises with a capacity of less than 100 people, that fall outside the proposed legislation, the Impact Assessment notes that the Home Secretary will encourage such premises to adopt voluntary measures to reduce terrorism risks.

Contact us for further information and assistance with preparing your emergency preparedness plans and risk assessments.