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By email: rob.smith@slcc.co.uk

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10 November 2023

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your letter of 31 October to the Prime Minister about the progress of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) draft Bill, also known as Martyn's Law. The Prime Minister receives a large amount of correspondence and unfortunately is unable to respond to each email individually. Your email has been forwarded to the Home Office for a reply.

Town and parish councils have a major role in improving the quality of life and wellbeing of their communities and creating places where people are proud to live. They are close to the communities they serve, know their communities' needs and can champion the priorities of local people and design the right services that work for their places.

Whilst they have few duties, apart from providing allotments, they can be invaluable to the district and county council in representing the views of their communities on planning applications and other issues of local concern, where they have not received comments from local people directly.

Martyn's Law will deliver on our manifesto commitment to "improve the safety and security of public venues". The Bill improves protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK by mandating, for the first time, those responsible for certain premises and events to consider the terrorist risk and how they would respond to an attack.

In May 2023, we delivered on our commitment to bring forward a draft bill for pre-legislative scrutiny, providing Parliamentarians with the opportunity to scrutinise the Government's work. Pre-legislative scrutiny provided us with important feedback which we have been carefully considering, particularly in relation to the requirements within the standard tier. We remain committed to introducing this important piece of legislation to Parliament, as was reaffirmed by the Bill's announcement in the King's Speech on 7 November.

We are acutely aware of the need to ensure that the measures included in Martyn's Law are proportionate, and that they do not place an undue burden on businesses and community organisations. That is why, ahead of the Bill's introduction, we will launch a further public consultation on the standard tier to ensure the Bill's measures strike the right balance between public protection and avoiding disproportionate burdens on premises. We would encourage you to contribute your views ahead of the Bill's introduction.

This will give the public, as well as our stakeholders, ample opportunity to express their views. Once the consultation has concluded, we will introduce the Bill as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

We will bring forward the consultation in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Foley

Email: Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk