

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak  
The Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

**By email via gov.uk website**

31 October 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

**Martyn's Law – Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill**

The Society of Local Council Clerks is the only professional membership body for clerks to up to 10,000 town, parish and community councils in England and Wales. That includes Richmond Town Council in your own constituency in North Yorkshire, small parish councils in villages with a couple of hundred residents to large town councils with populations of more than 70,000 (e.g., Northampton or Weston super Mare Town Councils). We wholeheartedly support new anti-terrorism measures to ensure the safety of our local communities and that new legislation is introduced as soon as possible.

We submitted written evidence during the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft bill to the Home Affairs Committee and we remain keen to work with the government on its roll out. Clerks and their town and parish councils run thousands of venues (e.g., community centres, town and village halls, sports facilities) and events (music festivals, Remembrance Parades, Christmas Lights Switch-Ons, etc.,) across the country. We welcome clear, proportionate measures – it's vital that local communities across the country are aware, resilient, and prepared for possible terrorist activity. We'd like to make sure that we, at the first tier of local government, are ready for this.

We have a real willingness to work together with the Home Office and other agencies to look at the best way of maximising how our local councils can be used to help reinforce the importance of local resilience and raise awareness of Martyn's Law within communities. Our efforts to prepare our sector for the new legislation includes working with Figen Murray (mother of Martyn Hett, tragically killed in the Manchester Arena bombing), Nick Aldworth, counter terrorism expert and others.

With our members' collective experiences of running venues and events (some of which are seen as out of scope in the draft bill as it stands) and our relationships with local charities and voluntary groups, we feel that our input could be helpful on the practicalities of implementation and key in getting the message across about this much needed legislation.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Smith, CEO

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Chief Executive Officer

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