

# “PROTECT DUTY” BRIEFING

A G4S ACADEMY PAPER



## What is the Protect Duty?

Today (10 January), the government published its response to the Protect Duty public consultation, which ran from 26 February to 2 July 2021. This consultation is the forerunner to a new set of UK Terrorism legislation that organisations will need to adhere to.

This legislation, and the changes it brings, will enhance the protection of the United Kingdom's publicly accessible places from terrorist attacks and ensure that businesses and organisations are prepared to deal with incidents

## Who the proposed Protect Duty applies to:

There are three main areas it will potentially apply to:-

- Public venues (eg. entertainment and sports venues, tourist attractions, shopping centres with a capacity of 100 persons or more)
- Large organisations (eg. retail or entertainment chains employing 250 staff or more that operate at publicly accessible locations)
- Public spaces (eg. public parks, beaches, thoroughfares, bridges, town/city squares and pedestrianised areas). This includes event organisers using these spaces.

## What was the outcome of the consultation publication?

7 in 10 respondents agreed that those responsible for publicly accessible locations should take appropriate and proportionate measures to protect the public from attacks.

This included ensuring staff were trained to respond appropriately.

There was also agreement that venue capacity should determine when the duty applies. Most felt that larger organisations should be taking proportionate action to ensure people are protected.

There was an understanding that small and medium sized enterprises should not face the same requirements as larger venues and that all measures should be proportionate to the size of each organisation.

Very strong views were expressed regarding the need for accountability, such as the need for clear roles and responsibilities, particularly amongst event organisers, and those at senior level within venues and organisations.

As a consequence, it is likely that a set of legal requirements are likely to be imposed on businesses that will need to be adhered to by law. We await the specifics.

## How the proposed Protect Duty will affect businesses

At a top level, The Government considers that the owners and operators of public venues and large organisations should be required to:

- Use available information and guidance provided by the Government and the police to consider terrorist threats to the public and staff at locations they own or operate
- Assess the potential impact of these risks across their functions and estate, and through their systems and processes
- Consider and implement 'reasonably practicable' protective security and organisational preparedness measures (eg. developing a strategy that ensures you have assessed your site and its use, including suitable mitigation measures to protect staff, as well as staff training, and plans for how to react in the event of an attack)
- Develop a robust plan on how to deal with or act as a result of a terrorist attack

## What are G4S doing in relation to Protect Duty?

We have a set of actions underway which include:-

- The publication of a paper that we have commissioned with our colleagues in Risk on the main Terrorism threats in 2022 due for publication in January
- A G4S Academy customer and prospect webinar scheduled for 8th February where we will present the main Terrorism threats in 2022, the current status of the Protect Duty Legislation and a set of practical recommendations that organisations may wish to consider in order to actively reduce the threat of a terrorist attack
- A G4S Academy customer and prospect "Desktop Exercise" designed to challenge participants to manage their way through a suspected terrorist attack.

## What actions should you take?

- Ensure your ACT training is up to date and that all of your teams have completed the training
- Share the briefing paper and invites to our online briefing sessions when available

## What next?

Whilst we cannot predict the exact requirements imposed on organisations as a result of the legislation, we have formed a working group to identify practical recommendations that both potential customers and ourselves could adopt in order to follow best practice and take reasonable measures to reduce the threat of falling victim to a terrorist attack.

## Want to read the full copy of the consultation?

Download a copy of the full consultation [here](#)



**If you would like to find out more  
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