

WESTMARK PROTECTED PREMISES MARK

Find out where you stand before the duty bites

An independent assessment of public protection procedures and measures for qualifying premises and qualifying events under the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025.

THE DUTY

Royal Assent in 2025. Commencement expected in spring 2027.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 received Royal Assent on 3 April 2025. The substantive duties at sections 5 to 10 are not yet in force.

Commencement is expected in spring 2027, following the minimum twenty-four month implementation period. The duties fall on the responsible person for the premises or the event, and the Security Industry Authority regulates compliance.

The Act creates no certification scheme. There is no route by which a responsible person can find out in advance, from anyone official, whether their arrangements are adequate. What is available instead is an independent examination of those arrangements against the Act and its statutory guidance, carried out on site, with the result recorded on a public register.

Why a contemporaneous record matters

Section 27(5) of the Act provides that proof of having acted in accordance with the statutory guidance may be relied on as tending to establish that no contravention occurred. A dated, independent record of what was in place, made by someone with no stake in the answer, is exactly that kind of proof.

Two tiers, and what each one owes

TIER	BROADLY	WHAT THE ACT REQUIRES
Standard duty	200 to 799 people may be present	Public protection procedures: evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and communication. Notification to the Security Industry Authority.
Enhanced duty	800 or more may be present	The procedures above, plus public protection measures, a designated senior individual, and a documented compliance statement.

Which tier applies turns on the Schedule 1 use and the attendance figure recorded in your scope determination. Getting that determination wrong is itself a finding, and it is the first thing the assessment examines.

WHAT YOU CAN BE ASSESSED AGAINST

A site visit, an event, or a desk review

PRODUCT	FOR	HOW IT IS CARRIED OUT
Enhanced premises assessment	Enhanced duty premises	A site visit on a date the assessor sets, with direct verification and interviews with front-line workers without managers present.
Qualifying event assessment	A qualifying event	Assessment across the document stage, build, show and close-out.
Standard premises declaration	Standard duty premises	Desk review with a remote interview. No site visit, no score, no confidence level.

What is examined

Five sections and twenty controls: scope and registration, public protection procedures, governance, public protection measures, and documentation and records. Which sections apply depends on the product.

What happens on the day

- **The lockdown is timed.** Every entry point on your schedule, secured by the staff actually on duty, against the clock.
- **The communication channels are tested live.** Public address and radio, including the places you know are weak.
- **Front-line workers are asked to describe their own part** in each of the four procedures, without prompting and without a manager in the room. At least three of them, including one casual, agency or volunteer worker where you use them.
- **The assessor walks the routes,** looks at each evacuation area, and forms their own view of the premises rather than accepting the one in your paperwork.

The corroboration rule

A control scores full marks only where the evidence comes from more than one independent source. A procedure and the checklist derived from it count as one source. This is why a folder of well-written procedures does not carry an assessment on its own.

Disqualifying conditions

Nine conditions prevent a positive outcome whatever the score, among them no recorded scope or tier determination, a required public protection procedure absent in any form, and material misrepresentation to the assessor.

THE RESULT

What you can be awarded

OUTCOME	WHAT IT TAKES
Westmark Protected Premises Mark	Enhanced premises or qualifying event. Overall 80 per cent or above, no section below 50 per cent, no disqualifying condition, procedures consistent across the operating pattern.
Westmark Protected Premises Conditional	Enhanced premises or qualifying event. Overall 60 to 79 per cent, or the Mark thresholds met but for a section floor or an inconsistency. Improvement actions attached, completable within three to six months.
Not Confirmed	Enhanced premises or qualifying event. Below 60 per cent, or a disqualifying condition met. Nothing appears on the register.
Declared	Standard premises declaration only. Every assessed control scores 1 or above and no disqualifying condition.
Not Declared	Standard premises declaration only. Any assessed control scores 0, or a disqualifying condition met. Not published. You may submit again after three months.

What a Declared outcome does not say

It rests on a desk review and a remote interview. No site visit was made, no score was reached and no confidence level applies. It confirms the four procedures exist and that workers have been briefed on them. Wherever it is claimed, the holder must state that no site visit was made.

Fees

PRODUCT	ASSESSOR TIME
Standard premises declaration	Half a day, carried out remotely
Enhanced premises assessment, under 5,000 expected attendance	One day on site, half a day at the desk
Enhanced premises assessment, larger or a site with several buildings	Two to three days on site, with desk time to match
Qualifying event assessment	Two days across document stage, build, show and close-out

A portfolio is charged per premises. The full fee is quoted in writing before the Assessment Agreement is accepted, and no part of it varies with the outcome.

AFTERWARDS

What you may say, and what you may not

A positive outcome comes with claim wording, the assurance mark, and the licence terms that govern its use. Every claim must state the outcome, the scheme, the product assessed, the assessment date, the control set version, the register reference and the expiry date.

Never permitted

- Approval, registration, certification or recognition by the Security Industry Authority, the Home Office, the National Protective Security Authority, ProtectUK or a police force.
- That the premises or event is Martyn's Law compliant, SIA approved or SIA registered.
- That the section 9 notification or the compliance document has been accepted by the Security Industry Authority.
- Any numeric score, percentage or maturity level. Scores are never published.
- Any extension of a Declared outcome to imply a site visit, a score or a confidence level.

Westmark requires correction of a wrong claim within ten working days, and withdraws the outcome where correction is not made.

The standard this is assessed against

The Protected Premises Assurance Standard is issued for use at version 0.9. Four items are held pending publication of the Security Industry Authority guidance under section 12 of the Act, and version 1.0 is issued when they complete. Every assessment states the version of the standard and of the control set it was carried out against, so the basis of an old outcome can always be reconstructed.

What this is not

Westmark Assurance is not an accredited certification body and does not offer UKAS-style certification. An outcome is a judgement by Westmark Assurance and carries no certification, accreditation or approval by government, the Ministry of Defence, the Security Industry Authority or the Home Office.

Validity

An outcome runs for twenty-four months from issue, with an annual declaration at twelve months completed and signed in the Westmark hub. It covers only the premises or event named. Another premises in the same portfolio is not covered by it.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

From enquiry to register entry

- 1 Scope and tier**
The premises or event, the Schedule 1 use, the expected attendance and the operating pattern. The tier follows from those, and the fee follows from the tier.
- 2 Quotation and agreement**
Issued in the Westmark hub and accepted on screen, with the acceptance recorded against the person who made it.
- 3 The visit is arranged**
Dates are proposed in the hub and you confirm the one that suits. The pre-assessment pack follows, setting out what to prepare and what happens on the day.
- 4 Self-assessment**
Plain questions in the hub, one for each control, answered yes, partly or not yet. No score is shown to you.
- 5 The visit**
Direct verification, the timed lockdown, the live communication test and the interviews. Any adverse view is put to you before it settles.
- 6 Technical review, then the outcome**
A second person confirms the record. Documents are issued in the hub and the entry is published on the register.

What to have ready

Your scope and tier determination, the four procedures, training and briefing records covering every category of worker including casual and agency staff, drill and walkthrough records from the last twelve months, the vulnerability assessment where you are enhanced duty, and the co-ordination arrangements with anyone else who controls part of the premises.

Talk to us

Tell us the premises or the event, the expected attendance and the operating pattern, and we will tell you the tier, what the assessment involves and what it costs.

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Verify any outcome at hub.westmarkassurance.co.uk/verify

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