Does Martyn's Law apply to our village hall?

> **If 200 or more people could be in the hall at the same time, yes. If fewer, no.**
>
> That is the whole test. Not how often you are that busy, not whether you sell tickets, not whether you are a charity. Write the number down either way, with the date and where it came from.

How to count

The most people who could reasonably be inside at once, including the people running the event. Look in three places:

1. **Your fire risk assessment.** It usually states a maximum for the main hall.
2. **Your premises licence,** if you have one.
3. **Your busiest booking.** The Christmas fair, the wedding, the panto. Room, kitchen, stage, bar and volunteers, together.

Two things that catch halls out: a big one-off event counts even if it happens once a year, and the figure is people, not seats.

What tier you are in

People at once	Tier	What it means
Under 200	Not in scope	No duties. Keep a note of the figure.
200 to 799	Standard	Four written procedures, your people know them, and you tell the SIA who is responsible once the law starts.
800 or more	Enhanced	Standard tier plus protective measures and a written assessment. Rare for a hall.

Places of worship, schools and nurseries stay at standard tier whatever their size.

What the standard tier asks

Less than most committees fear. No inspection to pass, no certificate to buy, no consultant to hire, no equipment. Four short procedures, written down and known by your people:

1. **Getting everyone out.** Which way, and where people gather.
2. **Bringing people inside.** If the danger is outside, which room is safest and how people get there.
3. **Keeping a threat out.** Which doors lock or can be held, and what to do if none do.
4. **Telling people what is happening.** Who speaks, how, and what they say.

Then be able to show that the people who run events know them. A minute saying they were circulated is weak. A record of who read them, and when, is strong.

What to do first

1. Write your capacity figure down, with the date and source.
2. Walk the building with a pen: which doors lock, which room has the fewest windows, where is the assembly point.
3. Write the four procedures, one side of paper each. Name roles, not people.
4. Get everyone who runs events to read them, and keep a record.
5. Review once a year and whenever the building changes.

When

Passed in April 2025. The Government expects the duties to start in spring 2027 and will confirm the date. Be ready well before then.

venuerecord.co.uk/guides: full guide, printable checklist, procedure templates, capacity calculator. Free to forward.

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