

RPT 2b Overview of DSC Incident Response Playbook

Purpose and Context

The DSC Incident Response Playbook has been created as a comprehensive and practical guide for venues, events and organisations that need to prepare for, respond to and recover from a wide range of security and safety incidents.

Developed to support compliance with Martyn's Law (Terrorism [Protection of Premises] Act 2025), the Playbook provides step-by-step, scenario-specific guidance that aligns with the legal duty to take "reasonable and practical" steps to protect the public.

The Playbook is particularly valuable for Responsible Persons, operations teams, safety officers and event organisers, especially within the Standard tier of Martyn's Law, as they develop incident response frameworks that are proportionate, effective and integrated into wider risk mitigation planning.

Scope of the Playbook

The Playbook is structured around high-risk, high-impact incident types, ensuring tailored guidance for each of the following scenarios and a selection of applicable templates:

- Suspicious Items
- Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)
- Hostile Reconnaissance
- Marauding Attacks (Knife/Gun)
- Crowd Management Issues
- Mass Casualty Events
- Adverse or Severe Weather
- Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)
- Lost or Missing Persons
- Vulnerable Persons Assistance
- Cybersecurity Breaches or Digital Disruption
- Fire or Smoke Detection
- Power Outages or Technical Failure
- Dangerous Animal or Wildlife Intrusion
- Handling Media and Press Attention
- Media Interview Cheat Sheets
- Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP)
- Incident Reporting Template
- Staff Briefing Template
- Suspicious Item Reporting Form

Each section provides recognition indicators, immediate actions, communication protocols, escalation processes and post-incident recovery steps, empowering events

and venues to respond quickly and safely while maintaining operational control and public confidence.

How to Use the Playbook

Integration with the DSC Toolkit and Martyn's Law Compliance

The Playbook works hand-in-hand with the DSC Toolkits, Compliance Templates and Responsible Persons Training to support ongoing preparedness. Each section links to practical tools such as:

- Staff briefing checklists
- Reporting templates
- Media engagement scripts
- Maps, signage protocols and evacuation templates
- Joint Emergency Service Interoperability Programme (JESIP) - aligned incident reporting e.g. M/ETHANE model see: <https://www.jesip.org.uk/joint-doctrine/m-ethane/>

These resources ensure not only readiness for emergency events but also compliance with the legal documentation, training and procedural requirements of Martyn's Law.

Practical Application for Responsible Persons

The Playbook can be:

- Printed and added to on-site safety folders
- Used in tabletop and live exercises
- Referenced during Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings

It is designed to demystify emergency planning for grassroots and voluntary organisations, those less familiar with crisis management practices, without compromising on clarity or rigour.

Benefits to Venues and Events

- Builds preparedness and resilience
- Helps demonstrate compliance with Martyn's Law requirements
- Enhances staff confidence and public safety
- Encourages coordinated, confident responses
- Reduces reliance on external consultants