

DSC Risk Framework for Venues & Events

Purpose:

To provide venues, events and organisers with a clear, practical framework for assessing, managing and communicating risks - particularly in relation to terrorism, public safety and operational resilience.

This Risk Framework aligns with the principles of the UK's Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Martyn's Law 2025 and industry-standard ISO 31000.

1. Core Principles of the DSC Risk Framework

Principle	Description
Proportionate	Risk measures should reflect the size, nature and exposure of the venue or event.
Practical	The framework encourages simple, scalable tools and language.
Preventive & Responsive	Risks must be managed both before and during an incident.
Owned & Understood	All team members should understand their role in risk control.
Evidence-Based	Decisions must be recorded and based on real, justifiable reasoning.

2. Risk Categories (Tiered Threats)

Risk Category	Examples
Security	Terrorist attack, hostile reconnaissance, suspicious items
Crowd Safety	Crush risk, surging, unmanaged exits or ingress
Technical / Infrastructure	Power outage, Wi-Fi failure, lighting collapse
Weather / Natural Hazards	High winds, flooding, lightning, heatwaves
Medical	Mass casualty, heat stroke, substance misuse, food hygiene
Reputational	Miscommunication, social media panic, intrusive press
Cyber / Digital	Ticketing outage, website failure, payment gateway disruption

3. Risk Assessment Matrix (Likelihood x Impact)

	Very Low (1)	Low (2)	Moderate (3)	High (4)	Very High (5)
Rare (1)	1 - Trivial	2 - Trivial	3 - Low	4 - Low	5 - Medium
Unlikely (2)	2 - Trivial	4 - Low	6 - Medium	8 - Medium	10 - High
Possible (3)	3 - Low	6 - Medium	9 - Medium	12 - High	15 - High
Likely (4)	4 - Medium	8 - Medium	12 - High	16 - High	20 - Critical
Almost Certain (5)	5 - High	10 - High	15 - High	20 - Critical	25 - Critical

4. Risk Appetite Matrix (DSC Guidance)

Risk Level	Description	Appetite	Action
Trivial	Negligible impact, no action needed	Acceptable	No action, monitor only
Low	Manageable without disruption	Acceptable	Routine controls, document and review
Medium	Could disrupt operations, some public concern	Cautious	Additional controls required
High	Will disrupt operations or affect safety	Adverse	Strong mitigation required; escalate issue to RP
Critical	Major threat to life, public safety, or legal compliance	Avoidance	Must not be accepted; escalate immediately

5. Control Hierarchy

Apply the “As Low As Reasonably Practicable” (ALARP) principle.

Prioritise:

1. Elimination – Can this risk be removed entirely?
2. Reduce / Substitution – Can it be replaced with a safer option?
3. Control – Physical barriers, CCTV, bollards
4. Administrative Controls – Training, signage, stewarding
5. PPE – Toe capped boots, Radios, torches, protective wear etc

6. Risk Register Template (Sample)

Ref	Risk Description	Category	Likelihood	Impact	Score	Current Controls	Responsible Person	Action Needed
R1	Large unattended bag near gate	Security	3 (Possible)	4 (High)	12 - High	Stewards briefed, CCTV monitored	Security Manager	Enhance signage and staff sweep protocols
R2	Payment platform failure	Cyber	4 (Likely)	3 (Moderate)	12 - High	Contingency cash access plan	Commercial Manager	Notify suppliers, add local manual payment option

7. Communicating Risk: Briefing Summary (RAG Traffic Light System)

Colour	What It Means	Action for Staff
 Green	All risks within appetite	Stay alert, continue BAU duties
 Amber	Some elevated risks identified	Stay alert, review duties, posture for updated plan
 Red	One or more critical risks active	Incident Response required. Follow instructions

8. Support Tools

Available to subscribers via the DSC Toolkit:

- Risk Assessment Templates
- Pre-event Risk Planning
- Decision Logs & Risk Registers
- DSC Advisory Alerts Integration (e.g. Down Detector)
- Compliance Audit Template