

IN THIS ISSUE**01** The law is changing**02** Lessons from the courtroom**03** Greener and safer**04** Community**01 THE LAW IS CHANGING****Legislation & regulatory update****Martyn's Law - statutory guidance is here**

On 15 April 2026 the Home Office published statutory guidance for the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 - Martyn's Law. It requires those responsible for certain public premises and events to prepare for a terrorist attack, split across a standard and an enhanced tier and regulated by the Security Industry Authority. With at least a 24-month lead-in, the duties are unlikely to apply before April 2027 - but the guidance is out now.

WHY IT MATTERS TO YOU If you run anything open to the public - a fundraising walk, open day or festival - work out which tier you'd fall into and fold basic counter-terrorism preparedness into your event safety planning.

The Building Safety Regulator stands on its own

From 27 January 2026 the Building Safety Regulator became a standalone body, sponsored by MHCLG, to sharpen accountability and speed up Gateway 2 and 3 decisions for higher-risk buildings. If you or your clients work on higher-risk buildings, expect a more dedicated regulator.

New rules for classifying chemicals (GB CLP)

The Chemicals (Health and Safety) Regulations 2026 change how substances are classified and labelled under the GB CLP regime. Despite a "fatal motion" in the Lords in April 2026, the reforms are going ahead - so keep your safety data sheets and COSHH assessments current as classifications update.

HSE refreshes its guidance on infections and biological hazards

In spring 2026 the HSE overhauled its web guidance on infections and biological hazards at work - restructured, cleared of outdated material and signposted to NHS and UK Health Security Agency sources - to help employers identify and assess biological risks under COSHH, covering bloodborne viruses and exposure incidents, safe work with biological agents, and pandemic preparedness. It lands right across our client base: in hospice and care settings think bloodborne viruses, sharps and clinical-waste handling; for outdoor and land-based teams, zoonoses such as Lyme disease from ticks and Weil's disease (leptospirosis) from water and rodents; and for anyone handling waste or donated goods, the 'incidental exposure' rules apply. If your COSHH assessments don't yet treat biological agents as explicitly as chemicals, now's the time.

Psychosocial risk moves centre stage

The HSE's 2026 priorities keep work-related stress and mental health alongside dust, asbestos and hybrid-working risks. The message: psychosocial risk assessment, guided by the HSE Management Standards, now deserves the same rigour as physical hazards. We can help you build a proportionate organisational stress risk assessment that stands up to the regulator and a civil claim - and, above all, helps your people.

02 LESSONS FROM THE COURTROOM

In the courts - the last quarter

A snapshot of the cases that passed through the courts this quarter - behind every fine, an avoidable injury and a lesson worth learning.

Criminal - HSE prosecutions

CASE & COURT	WHAT HAPPENED	THE LESSON
Industrial Chemicals Ltd Southwark Crown Court - 21 Apr 2026 · COSHH reg 7(1) £3.8m + £124,748 costs	Two workers suffered serious caustic soda burns at two Essex sites - one lost a leg below the knee, the other needed skin grafts. Leaking pipework was left unaddressed, there were no safe walkways, and the firm relied on poor-condition safety boots. Its second multi-million-pound fine in just over a year.	Lesson: PPE is the last line of defence, not the first. Fix the engineering and the safe system of work.
H. Wicks (Lindal) Ltd 27 May 2026 · HSWA s2(1) £60,000	A 44-year-old worker was struck and killed by a reversing telehandler at a Cumbrian waste site, which wasn't organised to keep pedestrians and vehicles apart.	Lesson: Workplace transport is still a top killer. Separate people from moving vehicles and control reversing.
Alchemist DB Ltd Luton Magistrates' Court - 29 May 2026 · CDM 2015 reg 22(2) £20,000 + £5,000 costs	A 35-year-old labourer drowned after falling into an unfenced, rain-filled excavation on a flats site - "a death trap," per HSE. The firm is now in liquidation.	Lesson: Secure the site for everyone who could reach it. Excavations need barriers, covers and lighting - every shift.
Biomass operator, Glasgow 21 May 2026 · machinery guarding £129,000	A worker had three fingers partially severed by moving machinery.	Lesson: Guard the danger zone and isolate before access.

03 GREENER AND SAFER

Sustainability & safety

Sustainability and safety increasingly pull in the same direction - good news for the purpose-driven organisations we work with.

Good safety makes a business more sustainable

Worth taking to the boardroom: a strong health and safety management system doesn't just keep people safe - it makes a business more resilient and better prepared for future sustainability. Health and safety sits at the heart of the 'social' pillar of ESG, and frameworks like ISO 45001 and the GRI 403 reporting standard increasingly tie safety performance to an organisation's sustainability story.

The evidence is mounting. Deloitte has found that strong H&S practices can enhance reputation, lift valuation over time and help attract talent - especially younger, purpose-driven employees. Looking after wellbeing also builds a stable, productive workforce and underpins long-term resilience. Get the foundations right - ISO 45001 operationally, ISO 45003 for psychosocial risk - and you have the data and governance that ESG reporting, investors and supply-chain partners increasingly ask for.

IN SHORT Safety, wellbeing and sustainability aren't three separate workstreams - increasingly they're one. A solid H&S system is part of the foundation of a resilient, future-ready business.

New skills bring new hazards

Green work mixes old trades in new ways. Fitting solar combines roofing, electrical and plumbing on one job; battery storage brings fire and lithium risks; biomass, EV servicing and recycling each carry their own hazards. When the work is new, reassess from first principles rather than stretching an old risk assessment to fit.

Designing hazards out

The biggest wins come early: Prevention through Design removes hazards at the drawing board, and circular-economy thinking - reuse, repair, less waste - often cuts risk and carbon together.

Warmer summers, hotter workplaces

With hotter summers now the norm, heat is a year-on-year risk indoors and out. There's no legal maximum workplace temperature in GB, but employers must keep it reasonable - shade and cool water, heavy work rescheduled to cooler hours, more breaks, and watching for heat stress. Our *Working in Hot Weather* toolbox talk gives crews a quick, practical briefing - free to download from the [resources page](#) of our website.

04 FROM THE HIVE Community

Backing grassroots sport - sustainably



Every year, I try to do something to support the grassroots sport clubs in the area where I live. Over the last few years I've sponsored my son's rugby club and my own local women's cricket team - the mighty Scholes Shenanigans.

This year I've worked a bit of sustainability in too - I'm sponsoring the reusable cups at my local cricket club. I think they look pretty good!

Small switches like this cut waste, reduce breakages and broken glass and support the club financially - safety, sustainability and community hand in hand.

I won't pretend that it doesn't give me a proud little buzz every time I see someone drinking out of one of them.

Tip of the quarter - event season is here

Whether it's a fundraising walk, open day or community event, three things matter most on the day:

- **A written event safety plan** - hazards, controls, weather and contingencies in one place.
- **A clear roles-and-communications structure** - everyone knows who's in charge and how to raise the alarm.
- **A simple lost-person / incident procedure** - briefed to everyone before the gates open.

With Martyn's Law guidance now out, it's a good moment to build basic counter-terrorism preparedness into the plan.

Get in touch

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Stay safe, and keep buzzing. - The Buzz Safety team