**BAFA/Home Office – meeting about Martyn’s Law**

**Tuesday 30 January 4pm-5pm**

Present: Michelle Castelletti, Oxford Festival of the Arts

Aneesa Chaudri, Home Office (aneesa.chaudri1@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Stewart Collins, Petworth Festival

Fiona Goh, BAFA

Susie Gregson, Proms at St Judes

James Kitto, Cheltenham Festivals

Joanna Lewis, Proms at St Judes

Kevin McNulty, Home Office (kevin.mcnulty@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Naheed Mughal, Home Office (Naheed.Mughal1@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Alexis Paterson, Three Choirs Festival

Ann Rosser & colleagues, Ashbourne Festival

Christian Stensrud, Home Office (christian.stensrud@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Apologies were received from Jessica Robson-Hill (Three Choirs Festival), Ashley Morris (Newbury Spring Festival) and Mary Hamilton (The Company Presents).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the application of Martyn’s Law for events held in places of worship. Kevin McNulty presented an overview of the key definitions within the proposed legislation:

**Standard tier premises** – are defined as having a capacity of between 100-799 people

**Enhanced tier premises** – are defined as having a capacity of 800 people or more

The distinction between capacity and occupancy was discussed and it was noted that all these figures relate to **venue capacity** rather than occupancy, although a 100 person event taking place in an 800 seat cathedral would have proportionate expectations in terms of application of the legislation. It was also noted that there was often a difference between the capacity for the venue in its usage for festivals than either its everyday use or its fire regulation capacity.

It was noted that Schedule 1 activities (i.e. those that are in scope of the legislation) may be in use for other purposes in everyday use but would fall within scope due to their use as a venue – e.g. a warehouse that was being opened up for a public event.

There would be limited consultation on **standard tier requirements** going live on 5 February and closing on 18 March (details [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/martyns-law-standard-tier-consultation)).

There was a discussion about the points of contact (Christian Stensrud is leading on the responsible person work for the HO):

* Designated Senior Individual (DSI) would be the point of contact for the regulator
* Qualifying public events will need to have a **responsible person** (N.B. it would be preferable to have only 1 named responsible person for the event)

It was noted that the **enhanced tier** venues would require ‘reasonably practicable’ steps to counter potential terrorist attacks, and that the regulator (appointed but name not yet in the public domain) would be able to advise on this in due course. Enhanced tier venues will need to keep and maintain a security document, be trained and have a DSI.

There was discussion about the relative size of organisation involved from both sides – for example, the festival may be solely volunteer-run and working with a well-staffed professional venue, or vice versa. There was a query about whether the legislation could reflect this by attributing responsibility where it is deemed appropriate.

Agreed that BAFA will act as a conduit to share information – slides from the meeting aren’t available to be shared but the Home Office team (e-mails given above) would welcome any case studies from BAFA members, particularly where they illustrate the complexities in assessing different tiered venues and in nominating responsible persons for events.