

ACT for Local Authorities



Licensing



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Introduction

The development of closer working relationships between local authority licensing teams and Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) Protect & Prepare will help extend the reach of protective security and preparedness advice into a number of important sectors.

ACT for Local Authorities identifies five areas in which local authorities are responsible for licensing and where protective security and preparedness considerations can have a significant impact on safety and security outcomes. These are:

- Night-time economy
- Temporary events
- Sports stadia and arenas
- Private hire vehicles
- Outdoor seating





The associated licensing processes provide an opportunity to encourage or mandate protective security and preparedness measures, such as the completion of ACT and SCan awareness products, terrorism risk assessments, appropriate consideration and adoption of physical security measures, and greater awareness of potentially life-saving advice such as the 'Run, Hide, Tell' campaign.

Consideration of protective security and preparedness within existing licensing frameworks can facilitate greater reach, and a more consistent understanding of terrorist risks, protective security, and preparedness across your local area. This includes those venues that are not in scope of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025.

As well as CTP Protect & Prepare engaging with local planning authorities and highways departments, the above will enable your local authority to further influence the design and operation of public spaces to reduce vulnerability to terrorist attacks.

Finally, CTP Protect & Prepare will also support your local authority in understanding the Sensitive Information in Licensing Applications (SILA) process, which will be brought into legislation through the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. This is designed to ensure that the licensing process itself is appropriately secured against being used in hostile reconnaissance by inadvertently and unnecessarily placing potentially sensitive information into the public domain.



ACT for Local Authorities: Licensing Outcomes

Through engaging with ACT For Local Authorities, those involved in licensing activity will:

- Access authoritative protective security and preparedness guidance and resources relevant to licensing objectives 1 (preventing crime and disorder) and 2 (public safety)
- Be supported in encouraging event organisers to embed appropriate protective security and preparedness measures when planning events requiring a Temporary Events Notice (Event Licence)
- Receive support in promoting appropriate protective security and preparedness measures at certificated sports venues
- Be supported in applying suitable protective security and preparedness considerations in outdoor hospitality settings
- Be supported in using the taxi licensing process to raise counter-terrorism awareness among licensed drivers
- Receive support in understanding and applying the Sensitive Information in Licensing Applications (SILA) legislation, once enacted

Licensing Tools

Legislation

Pavement Licenses

- [The Business and Planning Act 2020 \(Part 1\)](#), later amended by [The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 \(Schedule 22\)](#) – England and Wales.
- In Scotland, pavement licences or permits for outdoor seating are governed primarily by local authority regulations, rather than a single national piece of legislation like in England and Wales. Each council sets its own procedures and conditions, often under general powers granted by:
 - The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 – which governs use and obstruction of public roads and pavements.
 - The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 – which allows councils to regulate public spaces and licensing.

As of March 2023, the Scottish Government relaxed planning rules to allow cafes, bars, and restaurants to place tables and chairs on pavements without needing planning permission, streamlining the process. However, councils still retain powers to prevent obstructions, ensure accessibility, and impose safety-related conditions.

Taxis and Private-Hire Vehicles

- [The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 \(Section 37\)](#)
- [Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976 \(Part 2\)](#)
- [The London Cab Order 1934](#)
- Under the Wales Act 2017, taxi and PHV licensing is a devolved matter, meaning the Welsh Government has the authority to reform and legislate independently for Wales. The Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (Wales) Bill is currently progressing towards legislation and aims to modernise the taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) sector in Wales.
- [Civic Government \(Scotland\) Act 1982 \(Section 10\)](#)

Further Reading and Reference

- [Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds \(Green Guide\)](#)
 - This guide is owned and issued by the Sports Ground Safety Authority. It is a paid resource, so it must be purchased to be viewed either in digital or print format.
- [The Purple Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at Outdoor Events](#)
 - This is a resource controlled by the Events Industry Forum and is the industry standard guidance. A subscription is required to view the full guidance, but the Counter Terrorism section is available free of charge on the ProtectUK site [here](#).
- [The Licensing Act 2003 – Councillor’s Handbook \(LGA\)](#)
- [College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice - Counter Terrorism Security Coordinator \(CT SecCo\)](#)

Schemes

- [The Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative \(LSAVI\)](#)
 - LSAVI is a PCPI initiative, developed at the request of the Home Office and supported by the National Police Chiefs’ Council. It is a self-assessment tool designed to help licensed premises provide a safer and more secure environment for their managers, staff, customers, and local communities.