



Briefing – Report Stage of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill

About the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

We are the professional voice for environmental health professionals, representing over 7,500 members working in the public, private and non-profit sectors. Building on our rich heritage, we ensure the highest standards of professional competence in our members, in the belief that through environmental health action, people's health can be improved. For further information visit www.cieh.org and follow us on X [@The_CIEH](https://twitter.com/The_CIEH)

Summary

CIEH's principal interest in this Bill continues to be gaining assurance that the event safety expertise of environmental health professionals is used to guarantee the operational success of this new inspection and enforcement framework. We do not oppose the Bill, rather we are calling for a commitment to engage, arguing that collaborative working with environmental health practitioners must be a key priority for the new regulator.

Environmental health professionals currently enforce the Health and Safety at Work Act. They play a key role in ensuring that events are conducted safely, working alongside event organisers to develop comprehensive health and safety plans, ensuring regulatory compliance. They are a core part of the team of professionals that manage a variety of risks including oversight of safe management of the premises, safe access and egress, emergency response and evacuation plans, as well as crowd safety and production management.

Key points

CIEH would welcome a commitment from the Government that it will require the SIA to ensure ongoing communication with other regulators in the safety sector such as Environmental Health Practitioners.

During the Bill's Committee Stage, Debbie Bartlett, Deputy Director for Protect and Prepare, stated that the Home Office is "absolutely alive to the fact that the Security Industry Association (SIA) will have to align and work closely with a number of regulatory bodies, including those responsible for fire safety, licensing—as we heard from the gentleman before us—and health and safety". She also shared that "over 100 stakeholder events" have taken place. To date, CIEH has not been a part of this engagement. We have subsequently made contact with the Home Office officials



working on the Bill and will be meeting them for the first time later this month. We hope that this will be the start of ongoing dialogue and that CIEH can work with the Home Office and the SIA throughout the implementation phase of this Bill. Environmental health professionals want the opportunity for their experience and knowledge to help shape the successful design and implementation of the new regulatory framework that this legislation will establish.

CIEH would welcome an assurance from Government regarding the importance of the SIA working with those that work in enforcing or complying with the Health and Safety at Work Act in the effective delivery of this legislation and the new regulatory regime it establishes.

When the proposed legislation takes effect, Environmental Health Practitioners working in event health and safety will work alongside the SIA as duty holders in the ongoing management of safe events. There must be an understanding between regulatory agencies including foresight on possible overlap, information sharing protocols, and the clarifying of responsibilities. We hope that the Bill's Report Stage debate will bring clarity on how and who the Government expects that the SIA will need to work with throughout the implementation phase, given this new arena for them as the regulator. The success of this Bill will depend on a high level of cooperation between enforcement agencies and there must be a formal commitment to cooperate to ensure productive and smooth dynamics between duty holders.

CIEH would welcome further insight into how the SIA will recruit and train additional professionals to deliver the Bill.

During the Bill's Second Reading debate, the Rt Hon Chris Murray MP and Rt Hon Priti Patel MP raised the importance of the enforceability of provisions. We would welcome further insight into how the SIA will recruit and train the additional professionals needed to deliver on the Bill's provisions, in particular around enforcement, and what qualifications, skills and experience will be required.

Further information

For further information please contact:

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