

## ***Protect Duty Consultation***

A government consultation is currently open on the proposed Protect Duty. The duty is intended to be part of the response to the threat from terrorism, particularly after the Manchester Arena Attack. **It has become clear that it is important that churches, and those who speak for churches, respond to the consultation.** It is not necessary to complete every question for your responses to be taken into consideration.

The Duty, as set out in the consultation will introduce new requirements on any public place with a capacity of over 100. This will pick up nearly all churches and place demands on those running the building. The consultation language talks about staff, with little appreciation of public spaces run by volunteers, nor of the many voluntary organisations that operate from church buildings, who will also be brought into this duty. If you read and respond to the consultation thinking about who uses your building and how the Protect Duty as proposed will impact on you and other users that would be good.

The Archdeacon on London has written a [blog](https://frlukemiller.blogspot.com/2021/05/unintended-consequences-of-protect-duty.html) <https://frlukemiller.blogspot.com/2021/05/unintended-consequences-of-protect-duty.html> where he shares insights into possible unintended consequences of the duty. It may help to read this along with the consultation document.

The consultation is [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty) <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty> and is open until 11.45 on 2 July. Please participate and encourage participation in the consultation