OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

Evacuating a venue late at night

An evacuation after the encore in Bristol, a fire alarm mid set in Glasgow, and how to clear a building that is already emptying

Correct as of 3 November 2026

SUMMARY

Evacuations rarely come at a tidy moment.

3 evacuations, three moments [1][2][3]



Coaches wait at the kerb outside a lit venue on a wet night. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

The facts, as reported

3

evacuations, three moments [1][2][3]

45

minutes into an arena show [3]

10

minutes into a set [2]

What was reported

BRISTOL AND GLASGOW

After the show, most gone [1]

Left quickly and safely [1]

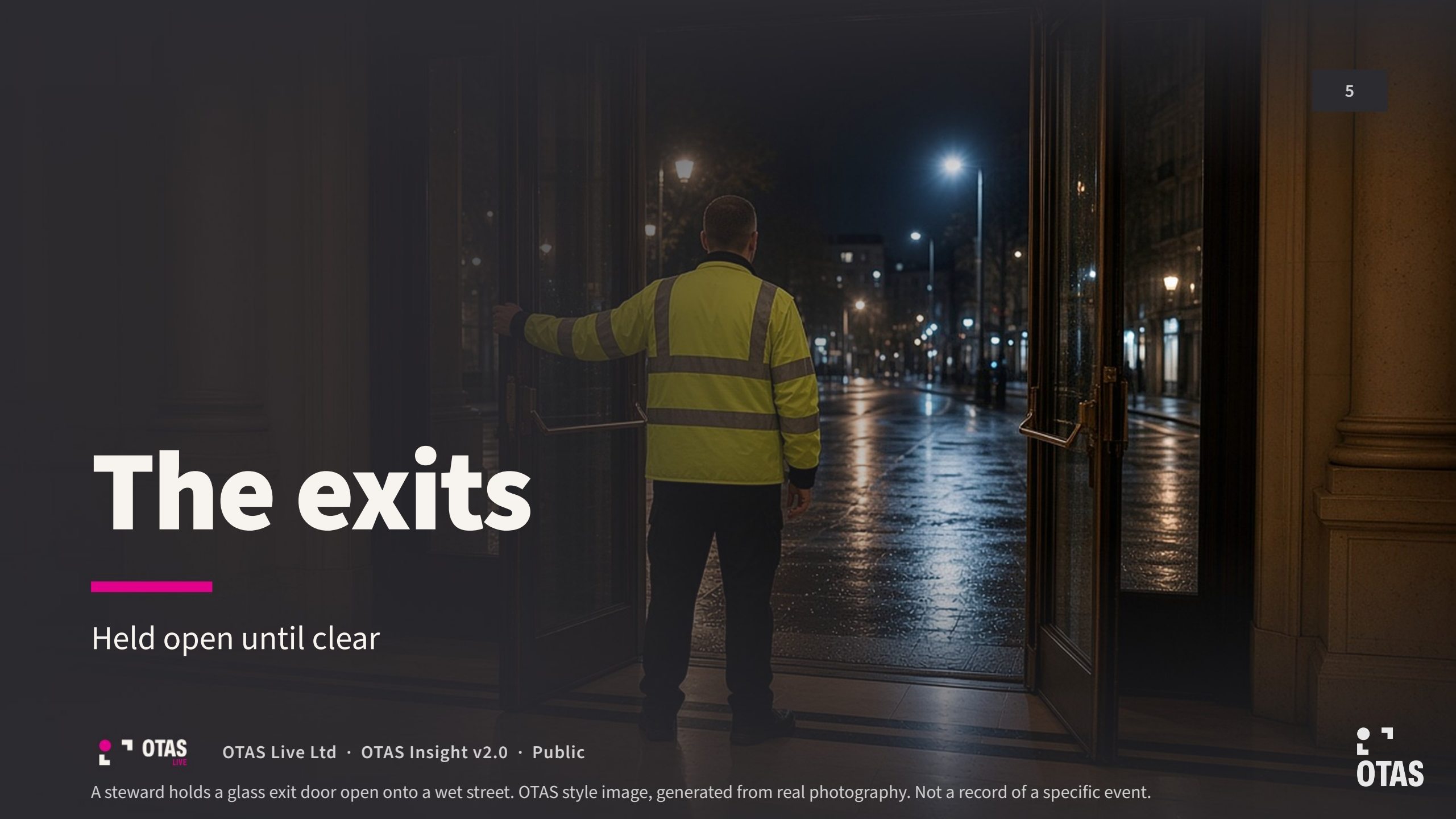
Alarm mid set, crowd outside [2]

BIRMINGHAM

Stopped 45 minutes in [3]

Thousands evacuated [3]

Nothing suspicious found [3]



The exits

Held open until clear

A steward holds a glass exit door open onto a wet street. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

02

Three moments

WHEN	THE CHALLENGE
Mid set [2]	Crowd near the road
45 minutes in [3]	Thousands at once
After the show [1]	Building already emptying

03

What UK guidance says

LEAVING

- Plan leaving and dispersal [5]
- Phase departures [5]
- Evacuate to a safe place [4]

WHO DECIDES

- Organiser responsible [6]
- Roles for emergencies [6]
- Debrief afterwards [4]



The sweep

Every area, every time

A steward shines a torch across empty seats in a dark auditorium. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

04

The evacuation script

ON THE PA	FROM STEWARDS
This is an evacuation	This way, keep moving
Nearest exit, now	Cross where shown
Stay off the road	Anyone else in there?

05

An evacuation at the end of the night

1	2	3	4	5
Concern raised	Decision made	Audience told	Building swept	Clear confirmed

OTAS guidance.



Outside

Off the road, away from doors

Two stewards watch a crowd across a wet street at night. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

06

Seven things to agree

WHO AND HOW

- Who decides
- Staffing
- Sweep areas
- Help to leave

WHAT HAPPENS

- The words
- Outside
- The record

07

Signs the plan only works mid show

OTAS guidance, drawn from the reports and HSE.

01 The plan assumes a full house

02 Sweep areas have no names

03 No message for people leaving

04 No place outside

05 No record

08

Five stages, from the plan to the people outside



STAGE 1

Plan

Who decides, every phase

STAGE 2

Staff

Enough to sweep it all

STAGE 3

Tell

Say it is different

STAGE 4

Sweep

Every area, final exits open

STAGE 5

Outside

Safe place, off the road

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.

09

The people outside

AT THE KERB

- Off the road
- Away from the doors
- Tell them what you know

AFTERWARDS

- When to go back in
- Coats and transport
- Debrief and record

10

Roles in an evacuation

WHO OWNS WHAT

Safety officer: decision

Head of security: sweep

PA operator: script

Outside: the kerb

LAST HOUR

Stewards still on

Exits clear

PA staffed

What to do at each level

Operational

- Know your area
- Check and report
- Keep off the road

Tactical

- Keep enough on
- Sweep area by area
- Hold final exits open

Strategic

- Name who decides
- Agree the outside
- Debrief, record

12

The checklist

BEFORE DOORS

- Named decision maker
- Sweep areas named
- Script and loud hailer
- Outside area agreed

AFTER

- Log each area clear
- Debrief [4]

“

In an emergency, they should also be able to evacuate quickly to a safe place.

HSE, crowd management guidance [4]

Where the facts come from

1	**Bristol Post, concert hall evacuated after hoax threat, 2 November 2026**	bristolpost.co.uk
2	**Glasgow Times, Glasgow gig continues outside after venue evacuated, report of 30 October 2026**	glasgowtimes.co.uk
3	**BBC News, show rescheduled after arena evacuation, 6 May 2026**	bbc.com
4	**HSE, crowd management, assess the risks**	hse.gov.uk
5	**HSE, crowd management, controls**	hse.gov.uk
6	**HSE, set clear roles and responsibilities**	hse.gov.uk
7	**HSE, crowd controls inside the venue**	hse.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

8	**SIA, Understanding Martyn's Law and the SIA's role as regulator, gov.uk, 17 July 2026**	gov.uk
9	**HM Government, Fire safety risk assessment: means of escape for disabled people**	gov.uk
10	**NPSA, Evacuation, invacuation and lockdown guidance**	npsa.gov.uk
11	**Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, article 15**	legislation.gov.uk
12	**Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, Part 3**	legislation.gov.uk
13	**Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006, regulation 14**	legislation.gov.uk
14	**Fire Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, regulation 14**	legislation.gov.uk

Web sources opened 3 November 2026 and labelled with their publisher.

OVER TO YOU

If an evacuation was called as your last encore ended, who would check the toilets?

If you need support with evacuation plans or sweep procedures for your venue or event, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

OTAS Live Ltd.

OTAS LIVE