

BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY

Document Administration

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Prevent Statutory Duty Policy

This policy sets out the University's response to the *Prevent* statutory duty, introduced in September 2015. It outlines the University's commitment to preventing students from being radicalised and/or drawn into terrorism.

1. Introduction

The University is committed to its duties to protecting the principle of freedom of speech, in accordance with Section 43(i) of the Education (No 2) Act 1986, and safeguarding its students from the risks of radicalisation and terrorism.

This policy describes the University's contribution to the *Prevent* agenda. It also defines the University's process for referral into the Channel process. Channel forms a key part of the *Prevent* strategy. The process is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on Universities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". The Act also notes that Universities must seek to balance this duty with their commitment to freedom of speech and the importance of academic freedom. The University has taken a risk-based approach in discharging its duties under the Act.

2. Scope

This policy is written in the context of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and applies to Council members, staff, students and visitors of the University.

The University recognises the interpretation of the term 'terrorism' given in the Terrorism Act 2000:

Terrorism is the use or threat of action where it:

- (a) involves serious violence against a person;
- (b) involves serious damage to property;
- (c) endangers a person's life, other than that of the person committing the action;
- (d) creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public;
- (e) is designed seriously to interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system;

and the threat is designed to influence the government, an international governmental organisation, or to intimidate the public or a section of the public, and the threat is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial, or ideological cause.

The use or threat of action of the kind in (a) to (e) above which involves the use of firearms or explosives is terrorism whether or not the threat is designed to influence the government, an international governmental organisation, or to intimidate the public or a section of the public.



3. Leadership:

The University is committed to fostering an inclusive environment in which the principle of freedom of speech is upheld. The University's Vice-Chancellor's Executive Group (VCEG) will establish mechanisms to:

- ensure risks of radicalisation and terrorism are identified and understood;
- ensure staff understand associated risks and build capabilities to deal with them;
- communicate and promote the importance of the Prevent Duty; and
- ensure staff implement the duty effectively.

A *Prevent* Steering Group has been established, which includes the Chaplain, Head of Student Advice, Academic Registrar, Chief Operating Officer, Students' Union President, Health and Safety Officer, and Partnerships Development Manager. Members of this group are the initial focus for consideration of policy developments and for consideration of case conferences where required.

The University is committed to identifying, protecting and supporting individuals who it believes may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism. The above measures seek to establish a framework in order to ensure the University makes a full response to the *Prevent* duty. The University discharges this duty in partnership with other agencies, including the Police, Local Authorities and the network of regional *Prevent* Co-ordinators.

Prevent is a standing item at the Health and Safety Committee. Ultimate responsibility for discharging the statutory *Prevent* duty rests with the University Council.

4. Partnership:

In order to ensure effective compliance with the *Prevent* duty, the University's VCEG will ensure a *Prevent* lead person (the Head of Student Advice) is nominated who will oversee:

- Regular participation in local multi-agency *Prevent* Steering Group meetings (including contributions to local counter-terrorism profile monitoring)
- Regular participation in regional DfE FE/HE *Prevent* Group meetings
- Established connections with local PREVENT co-ordinators:
 - Lincolnshire Police PREVENT Co-ordinator
 - DfE PREVENT Co-ordinator for East Midlands
 - OfS PREVENT Adviser
- Engagement and consultation with the student body
 - Student Union
 - Annual Senior Resident Training

The Health and Safety Officer will usually act as nominee for the Head of Student Advice.

5. Training:

The University will ensure appropriate front line staff will be provided with training to understand radicalisation, the relationship between extremism and terrorism, and what circumstances may mean persons become vulnerable to the influence of radicalisation.

- Appropriate awareness raising events:
 - Workshops Raising Awareness of Prevent training events for key staff
 - Specific events for ITE Trainees



- Senior Management Team awareness raising
- Regular programme of refresher training for relevant staff

6. Risk Assessment:

The University will undertake risk assessments to identify the potential risks associated with students being radicalised and/or drawn into terrorism. The University will identify actions to mitigate these risks and develop an appropriate action plan.

The *Prevent* lead person will:

- ensure relevant updates on the *Prevent* agenda and threat levels are communicated to appropriate University staff;
- ensure the Academic Registrar, Chief Operating Officer and Vice-Chancellor are fully aware of current *Prevent* developments.

The University will ensure its IT Acceptable Use Policy has due regard to the duties specified in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act Statutory Guidance. The University will ensure it has an appropriate procedure for managing external speakers visiting the campus, which is regularly reviewed.

The University will use the following policy framework to exercise its duties under the Act:

- Fitness to Study Procedure
- Crisis Intervention Procedure
- Code of Practice for Safeguarding Children and at-risk adults
- Religion and Belief Policy
- Freedom of Speech Policy
- IT Systems Acceptable Use Policy
- IT Systems Security Policy
- Research Ethics Policy

The University will ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it through:

- PREVENT training events
- Annual Senior Resident training for on campus Accommodation

The University will communicate and promote the importance of the duty via its external and internal web resources:

- BGU website/Blackboard

The University will ensure its staff implement the duty effectively through the Senior Management Group and effective use of the *Prevent* lead person (Head of Student Advice).



Annexe A: Referral Procedure for Concerns of Radicalisation or Terrorism

Any member of the University may identify concerns about an individual potentially being drawn into violent extremism based on information received or behaviour observed.

It is important that such concerns can be shared in a safe and supportive fashion to enable concerns to be investigated and an appropriate intervention to be developed, if required.

It is equally important that assumptions are not made on the basis of information received and that referrals are investigated thoroughly and fairly. The University will seek to approach such concerns from the perspective of safeguarding the individual about whom concerns have been expressed.

Only where there is clear and compelling evidence of a requirement to do so will information be shared with other agencies.

1. Where a member of the University has concerns that a student is expressing violent extremist views or is at risk of being drawn into violent extremism, these concerns should be passed to the Head of Student Advice (or nominee).
2. The Head of Student Advice (or nominee) will investigate the matter, seeking to gather together the substantive information and evidence which would allow a full consideration of the case.
3. Once any available information and substantive evidence has been gathered, this will be considered by the Head of Student Advice (or nominee), in discussion with other members of University staff where relevant. A decision will be made as to the seriousness of the case. Three potential outcomes are likely at this stage:
 - *No further action is required.* In this case, a confidential record of the case will be kept by the Head of Student Advice and the Registrar would be notified that a case had been investigated but no further action is required.
 - *There is substance to the case but at this stage only internal action is required.* The exact nature of the intervention required would be determined by discussion between relevant staff members. Actions and a review date will be agreed. At the review the case would be assessed again and the appropriate actions taken (as per 6.9.1 to 6.9.3). It is anticipated that in the majority of cases the intervention would be supportive and safeguarding in nature. As above, the Registrar will be notified.
 - *A referral to the police is required because there are serious and immediate issues of safety to the student or others, and/or there is evidence to suggest a criminal act may be committed or has been committed.* This decision would be taken only in the most serious of circumstances and only by the Registrar or Chief Operating Officer.

Visitors to the University may raise concerns through the University website (www.bishopg.ac.uk).

Concerns raised with the University direct will be initially addressed by the Head of Student Advice (or their nominee) as outlined above.