The *Prevent* duty

College briefing for staff

A Presentation by Central Secretariat
Background

CONTEST – The United Kingdom’s Counter-Terrorism Strategy

- Developed by the Home Office in 2003 – response to 9/11
- First made public in 2006; latest version 2018
- Prevent first launched 2007: a response to 7/7 London attacks

- Aim of the strategy: “to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.”
Background

CONTEST – Breakdown of the Strategy

Composed of the “four Ps”: Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare

Aim is to reduce the threat of terrorism at all levels:

- **Prepare** to mitigate the impact of an inevitable attack;
- **Pursue** to apprehend suspects operationally and legally;
- **Protect** to protect the public through security measures;
- **Prevent** to stop people from becoming radicalised.
The *Prevent* duty

From the *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015*:

“ 26. General duty on specified authorities

(1) A specified authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

(2) A specified authority is a person or body that is listed in Schedule 6. ”

Part 5: Risk of Being Drawn into Terrorism,
Chapter 1: Preventing People being Drawn into Terrorism
College Approach to *Prevent* duty compliance

Consists of four aspects:

- Reflective Practice and Reporting
- College approach to *Prevent* duty compliance
- Training and Awareness
- Welfare Support
- Events Management and Free Speech
Welfare Support

- The College has a duty of care to its students, staff and visitors
- All College employees share in the responsibility for delivering this duty
- College treats Prevent as one aspect of the duty of care, not separate
- The aim is to safeguard vulnerable individuals
- College does not expect staff / students to actively look for Prevent concerns
- To be aware of our Prevent duty so the proper support can be provided
Welfare Support

• There are a multitude of different terrorist ideologies, movements, and groups seeking to influence and recruit vulnerable individuals.

• But there are no common profiles for a Prevent concern.

• A person may show some or all of the following:
  - **Engagement**: showing support for a terrorist ideology, movement or group
  - **Intent**: desire to **cause harm** in connection with such engagement
  - **Capability**: the know-how and means to **cause harm**
Welfare Support

The College’s procedure for managing welfare cases that may be Prevent-related is called Referral of Concerns. This:

- recognises that a Prevent concern may arise in various different ways
- emphasises the need to first investigate the context
- relies on gathering and evaluating the facts sensitively
- enables quick communication and escalation, if needed
- documents the relevant information and decision making securely
Referral of Concerns

The College Secretary, Vice-Provost (Education) and the Academic Registrar take collective responsibility for:

- Reviewing the information gathered by the Local Adviser
- Deciding to refer anonymised information to the Local Authority for advice
- Deciding at a future point to disclose the identity of the individual to the Local Authority, and/or Police to enable more detailed external checks to be made
- Instructing the Local Adviser to meet with the individual and discuss welfare support, including the possibility of Prevent support
Events Management and Freedom of Speech

• The Education (no. 2) Act 1986 requires that universities ensure that Freedom of Speech is secured for its staff and students and for visiting speakers.

• The College upholds the right to freedom of speech within the law.

• It balances this with the need to challenge extremist ideas – an express requirement of the Home Office’s Prevent Duty Guidance.

• The College’s Freedom of Speech: Code of Practice underpins its room booking systems as well as those of the Students’ Union.
Events Management and Freedom of Speech

• The Students’ Union’s Freedom of Speech and Events Approval Policy covers all events organised by Clubs and Societies.

• Applications for controversial events and speakers are evaluated by the College Secretary and the Managing Director of ICU.

• Where appropriate, mitigations will be proposed to the event organisers to reduce any risks that have been identified.

• The Policy is designed to enable student-led events to go ahead wherever possible; very few restrictions have been put in place in the past.
Training and Awareness

- **Training**: this presentation is College’s core training for *appropriate staff*
  - Embedded wherever possible within the College’s broader welfare and wellbeing framework
- **E-Learning**: on Prevent is available to any member of staff at the College
- **Awareness**: The College’s webpage on [Prevent](#) contains all key practical information on our approach and how to handle concerns
  - signposted to all new staff by [Imperial College Essentials](#)
  - Targeted emails at least once a year to wider groups of relevant staff
Reflective Practice and Reporting

- Reporting to the Office for Students takes place each December
- Paints a picture of our local risk profile and what we do to manage it
- Adds data on how many people have been trained, events, any potential or confirmed Prevent cases and the broader numbers of other welfare cases managed

- Training on Prevent is designed to encourage discussion
- Queries and suggestions are always welcome via email to riccardo.feasey@imperial.ac.uk

Thank you