

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:



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