



University of Wolverhampton

PREVENT Guidance

November 2022



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON

INDEX

Section 1	What is Prevent?
Section 2	What are the University's responsibilities under Prevent?
Section 3	How does the University oversee Prevent?
Section 4	What are the key points of the duty and what do we have to do?
Section 5	How has the University of Wolverhampton approached the duty?
Section 6	How to raise PREVENT related concerns?
Section 7	Concerns about a student's wellbeing or mental health

Appendix 1 – Prevent disclosure and referrals process (flow chart).

Section 1 What is PREVENT?

Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is part of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The 2011 Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- work with sectors and institutions (Relevant Higher Education Bodies) where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Section 2 What are the University's responsibilities under PREVENT?

The University has a legal duty (established in The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) to have proper policies and procedures in place, alongside guidance for staff and support for students and Apprentice Learners to monitor and mitigate the threat of terrorism through the exploitation of vulnerable individuals and challenging extremist views and ideologies. In addition, the University has a legal duty to "have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism".

The University, as a Higher Education institution, also has several specific responsibilities under PREVENT which are required to safeguard our staff, students and Apprentice Learners whilst also supporting the communities in which we operate.

Section 3 How does the University oversee Prevent?

The University operates a Safeguarding Group which includes Prevent related activities to oversee its compliance with the Prevent duty. The remit of this Group stresses the importance placed by the University on balancing compliance with the Prevent duty against other legal requirements in relation to protecting freedom of speech and academic freedom.

In addition, the University Chief Compliance Officer will act as the PREVENT lead for the University and the Director of Health, Safety and Resilience will be responsible for reviewing and updating any relevant policies and procedures in relation to PREVENT.

Section 4 What are the key points of the duty and what do we have to do?

The key focus of the duty has been determined by HEFCE and broadly covers the following areas:

- Governance – that we have a defined process which is followed to govern the duty
- Risk Assessment – that we have assessed the risks relating to someone being drawn into terrorism and put implementation plans in place to mitigate the risk
- External Speakers – that we have a process to ensure that we do not provide a platform for external speakers to express views which may result in people being drawn into terrorism. Event organisers are required to ensure that other statutory obligations are met such as freedom of speech and the equalities legislation.
- Training – that we have a plan in place to train and communicate how we approach the Prevent Duty and to let people know what to do if they are concerned about someone being drawn into terrorism
- Welfare, pastoral care, and chaplaincy – that we have defined processes for communicating concerns and that any partners we engage with have been appropriately checked
- IT Policies – that we have clear acceptable use policies over our IT systems, including those used for research
- Students' Union and Societies – that we consult students and Apprentice Learners on our approach to the Prevent Duty.

Section 5 How has the University of Wolverhampton approached the duty?

The University must balance a wide-ranging set of responsibilities including our legal duty to ensure and promote freedom of speech and academic freedom and our duty to advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations between communities and eliminate unlawful discrimination (also a legal obligation under the Equality Act 2010). Given that the process of radicalisation itself, though very rare, is generally about stopping students and Apprentice Learners from questioning things and about shutting down rational discourse, in many respects the University's common-sense Prevent Duty compliance activities can be seen to underpin freedom of expression and academic freedom.

The ways in which we implement the Prevent Duty are as follows:

- **Governance:** The governance structure for Prevent includes, regular meeting of the Safeguarding Group, regular updates on Safeguarding activity (including Prevent) are sent to the University Executive Board (UEB) as well as an annual report that goes to the University Board of Governors. The University also has a dedicated member of the Board of Governors with oversight for Safeguarding and Prevent.
- **Risk assessments:** The University has a PREVENT risk assessment which is formally reviewed on an annual basis; however, this can be sooner dependent on any significant changes/updates of information, this includes a quarterly 'threat assessment' from the CTU on both local and national issues. Information from the Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLP) is used to inform the contents of the Prevent Risk Assessment.
- **External speakers:** The University has a process for external speakers (which includes PREVENT duties), and this is to be followed by anyone wishing to bring external speakers into the University.
- **Training:** The University has made Safeguarding and Prevent Training mandatory for all staff. In addition to this, those staff with key roles involved with students and Apprentice Learners have received more specific training which has been provided by the West Midlands Police Prevent Officer. The University have also developed bespoke training for Cleaning and Catering staff who may not have access to the online training that is available. In addition, specific training has been developed for Apprentice Learners who receive both induction and refresher training around Prevent, Safeguarding and British Values.
- **Welfare, pastoral and chaplaincy:** The University has in place a range of Faculty-based and centrally-managed support services, providing effective pastoral support to our students and Apprentice Learners. As part of this provision, the University has in place a clear protocol for staff to signpost/refer a student who is experiencing mental health difficulties to our specialist Mental Health and Wellbeing Team" (www.wlv.ac.uk/MHWstaffadvice).
- **IT Policies and Research:** The University has a defined IT Acceptable Use Policy which everyone must sign up to and abide by. This is reviewed periodically. Each Faculty has a Faculty Ethics Committee (FEC) and several subject panels with oversight of all ethical approvals.
- **Student Union and Societies:** Whilst there has been a consistent approach from the National Union of Students to state that they do not support Prevent, the engagement that the University has received from our Students' Union has been very supportive to the way we have implemented the duty we have under Prevent. Student Union staff have received relevant training about PREVENT as well as ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) awareness training. The Student Union Chief Executive Officer and Sabbatical Officer are also members of the University Safeguarding Group

Section 6 How to raise PREVENT related concerns?

These protocols do not alter the fundamental relationship between University staff, students, and Apprentice Learners; this is not about fostering a culture of monitoring students and Apprentice Learners or of over-reacting to issues that are not actually of concern. All we are seeking to do is make sure that, if a staff member does have a concern that a student or Apprentice Learner may be being radicalised, that they know who to speak to and what to do with that concern, rather than just ignoring it. If you notice something that gives you a cause for concern, first check your concerns with a colleague or raise your concerns with your supervisor. This can include, but not exclusively (See also Appendix 1 for flow chart):

- You see or hear extreme changes in behaviors and attitudes, or observe something, which could indicate potential abuse.
- You observe a shift in a person's behavior or attitude which you have reason to believe may be linked to abuse or neglect of that person by someone else.
- Possessing or accessing unlawful material (e.g., extremist materials)
- Promoting extremist views, hate speech, or other discriminatory behaviors.

If you are still concerned about a student, Apprentice Learner or a colleague then share this information, sensitively and confidentially with your line manager or directly to one of the designated contacts, there is also a dedicated e-mail address to securely raise any concerns, this can be found at prevent@wlv.ac.uk . You can also visit the University Safeguarding website which can be found at <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/about-us/corporate-information/safeguarding/>

If, however, you believe there to be an immediate and significant threat then please contact:

The 0800 789 321 number which is available 24/7 for members of the public to report suspicious activity (remember always call 999 for emergencies), alternatively you can e mail the following: West-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Section 7 Concerns about a student's wellbeing or mental health

If you have a concern about a student's or Apprentice Learners wellbeing or mental health, but there are no known or suspected issues of radicalisation or abuse or neglect of them by another individual, DO NOT email the PREVENT email address shown above.

Instead, visit www.wlv.ac.uk/MHWstaffadvice for the protocol for mental health and wellbeing concerns, which is set out in one simple document – our '3 levels' model.

Appendix 1 – Prevent disclosure and referrals process (flow chart):

