

Meeting of the Governors

25 November 2021

Annual report on Prevent compliance 2020-21

Report prepared by: Katharine Bock, Deputy College Secretary, for the Prevent Working Group

Action required: Governors are asked to consider the annual report on compliance with the Prevent duty and agree that the Chair of Governors can sign off the annual accountability declaration to OFS.

- 1 University governing bodies are responsible, under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, for preventing people from being drawn into terrorism. OFS is responsible for assuring Higher Education provider compliance with the requirements of the CTSA.
- 2 OFS has a Prevent monitoring framework in place. Under the framework universities are required to submit a declaration of compliance with the Prevent requirements and a data return each year.
- 3 The previous year's return also included a statement outlining how Governors have satisfied themselves in relation to the declaration and to their oversight of implementation of the Prevent duty. This requirement has been removed. However, as Governors are still required to confirm that the accountability declaration can be signed, we will continue to make an annual report to Governors.
- 4 The annual report is attached as Appendix A, the accountability declaration as Appendix B and the data return as Appendix C.
- 5 The return is due to be submitted to OFS by 1 December.

Annual report on compliance with the Prevent duty

- 1 This report provides an update on activities since the last report, made in November 2020. It covers the period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021.
- 2 This year we have not experienced any serious incidents or changes to policy although the change to our operating context from March 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic lockdown started has continued. In 2020-21 we have operated primarily online, except for Covid-safe library, laboratory facilities and office.
 - *How have Prevent-related policies or processes been monitored e.g. relating to external speakers, welfare or safeguarding processes, and is there assurance that they are effective?*
- 3 The Prevent-related policies and procedures are monitored by the College Prevent Working Group, which also carries out an annual review of the Prevent risk assessment and action plan.
 - *Have you been provided with appropriate information and evidence that the organisation is demonstrating due regard through relevant reports, updates etc.?*
- 4 Governors receive this annual report on Prevent compliance, which is produced by the Prevent working group and which is based on the risk assessment and action plan.
 - *Have staff reported any serious incidents? If so, have you been assured by how the organisation has acted, including responses to any lessons learned? Equally, have you been notified of any near misses, and again, been assured that any lessons learned have been acted upon?*
- 5 There have been no reported serious incidents this year.
 - *Have you been assured that Prevent has been implemented in a proportionate and risk-based manner, including considering the duty alongside other statutory obligations e.g. freedom of speech?*
- 6 Our work towards Prevent compliance is conducted in tandem with our Freedom of Speech, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Dignity at Work and Study policies and procedures. We have adopted an open approach and maintain a [website](#) with links our Prevent risk assessment and action plan and related policies.
 - *Is there visible and demonstrable ownership of Prevent at a senior level at the provider?*

- 7 The College Prevent working group is chaired by the Deputy College Secretary Governance and its members are the Academic Registrar, Director of Student Services, Director of Estates Resources, Head of Facilities, Head of Learning and Organisational Change, Director of External Relations, Head of Communications, Director of IT Services and the Chief Executive of the Students' Union. It meets annually, or more often if needed, to review the risk assessment and monitor progress on the action plan. It also reviewed and agreed a draft of this report.
- *Are you assured that staff have received sufficient training and awareness raising to implement Prevent effectively?*
- 8 We continue to offer Prevent awareness training alongside safeguarding and welfare training. In its review of the Prevent risk assessment and action plan this year, the Prevent working group agreed to re-launch the programme to raise awareness for all staff about these issues and the routes available for staff who may be dealing with concerns about individuals.
- *Has the provider continued to work in partnership with its Prevent partners, including statutory agencies and students?*
- 9 We maintain contact with attend the meetings of the London HE Prevent Network. We liaise with our neighbour institutions on the University of London Bloomsbury precinct on a range of security and event issues including Prevent related matters. There is Students' Union representation on the Prevent working group.
- *How has the provider implemented its broader welfare provision in assuring us that Prevent-related cases will be identified and managed effectively.*
- 10 Please see the Annual Monitoring Report on Safeguarding and Free Speech, attached.
- *Have staff assured you that the risk assessment has been reviewed in the past 12 months?*
- 12 The Prevent Working Group reviewed and updated the risk register/action plan in November 2021.

Prevent annual accountability declaration

Throughout the year and up to the date of approval, Birkbeck, University of London

- has had due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent duty)
- has provided to OfS all required information about its implementation of the Prevent duty
- has reported to OfS in a timely way all serious issues related to the Prevent duty, or now attaches any reports that should have been made, with an explanation of why they were not submitted
- has reviewed, and where necessary, updated its Prevent risk assessment and action plan

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Name | Sir Andrew Cahn |
| Title | Chair of Governors |
| Signed | |
| Date | 25 November 2021 |

I confirm that I have the authority to sign on behalf of the governing body, or proprietor where there is no governing body.

Declarations should be signed by the chair of the governing body or proprietor (where a governing body does not exist) or a person within the provider who has the appropriate authority to sign such declarations on behalf of the governing body or the proprietor. This declaration would be treated as confirmation that the provider has had due regard to the prevent duty.

Office for Students Prevent monitoring

Accountability and data return 2021

Validation passed

Provider: Birkbeck College

UKPRN: 10007760

In all cases this data should cover the year from 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021.

Table 1: Welfare

| Question | Islamist radicalisation | Extreme right-wing radicalisation | Mixed, unclear or unstable ideology | Other radicalisation | Total (automatically generated) |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| i) Number of Prevent-related cases escalated to the point at which the Prevent lead has become involved | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ii) Number of Prevent-related cases which led to informal external advice being sought from Prevent partners | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| iii) Number of formal external Prevent referrals | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

For each case add information about how it originated, e.g concerns identified from behaviour online, through external speakers, resulting from a welfare issue (max. 300 words).

Table 2: Events & external speakers

| Question | Total | Health and safety (estimate permitted) | Procedural (estimate permitted) | Reasons related to Prevent risk | Other matters (estimate permitted) |
|---|-------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| i) Total number of events or speakers approved through the external speakers process (estimate to nearest 10 permitted) | 0 | | | | |
| ii) Total number of events or speakers approved subject to any mitigations or conditions (estimate permitted) | 0 | | | | |
| iii) Number of events or speakers approved subject to any mitigations or conditions due to Prevent-related risks | 0 | | | | |
| iv) Total number of events or speakers rejected | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

For each case, please add information about the reasons for rejection where that rejection was for reasons related to Prevent risk (max. 300 words).

Table 3: Training

| Question | Total |
|--|-------|
| i) Number of staff identified as key in relation to the Prevent duty | 45 |
| ii) Number of key staff receiving induction Prevent training | 0 |
| iii) Number of key staff receiving refresher Prevent training | 6 |
| iv) Number of staff receiving broader welfare/safeguarding awareness training/briefing | 40 |