

Harper Adams University

Prevent Policy Statement

Harper Adams University, in accordance with legislative requirements under the Counter Terrorism and Security (CT&S) Act 2015 and successive acts, is required to put in place arrangements that support the UK Government's wish to try, wherever possible, to put in place practical ways to manage risks relating to potential radicalisation of people who engage with the work of the University or make use of its facilities.

This legal requirement means that the University must take steps as set out in the Prevent Duty Guidance for HEIs in England and Wales to ensure that the following actions are completed:

Assess risks of radicalisation using templates recommended by UK Government and other bodies as suitable for HEI use and take action to manage risks where necessary

Ensure that a policy in External Speakers is in place that protects Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom. The University is required to ensure that where an external speaker is engaged in presenting material that could present a risk in relation to the Prevent Duty, the University should not permit the event to take place on its premises or with its support unless the risk can be managed such that there is no remaining risk. It is noted that new Freedom of Speech requirements are being set out in law for HEIs. The University will take action to address such requirements in 2023/24 as and when required.

Ensure that the University's IT systems have appropriate filters and other suitable measures in place to ensure that materials that support radicalisation are not accessible through the University's IT systems.

Ensure that appropriate staff have an understanding of the Prevent Duty, including what steps should be taken to safeguard and support a student or students who are identified as potentially being at risk of radicalisation. Where steps are taken to support a student, evidence of the University's engagement with the relevant process/agencies needs to be kept securely and in accordance with data protection and other relevant legislation.

Ensure that it engages with local Channel arrangements and co-operates with any other government bodies or agencies that are also charged with Prevent duties.

Ensure that the Student's Union and the student body are aware of the University's arrangements to meet its Prevent Duty.

The University will be required to report to the Office for Students (OfS) on the steps it has taken to undertake its duties and will need to provide evidence of this work.

Where any University does not meet a particular planning or action requirement as specified or implied by the Act, the Monitoring Authority is empowered under law to give direction to that University to achieve compliance.

Harper Adams University's objectives

Our main objectives under the Prevent Risk and Action Plan are:

1. to ensure that we take steps to manage risks identified under the Prevent duty. We are required to work with external bodies who also have responsibilities under the CT&S/Prevent Duty.
2. to ensure that, wherever possible, in the event that a student or member of staff appears to be at risk of radicalisation is to continue to use our existing robust arrangements for safeguarding and supporting students. In addition to using our existing support and safeguarding arrangements to offer support

match the general expectations set out in this guidance will mean that institutions are well placed to comply with the Prevent duty. Compliance will only be achieved if these procedures and policies are properly followed and applied. This guidance does not prescribe what appropriate decisions would be - this will be up to institutions to determine, having considered all the factors of the case.

We would expect universities and higher education institutions to be delivering in the following areas.

Partnership

In complying with this duty we would expect active engagement from senior management of the university (including, where appropriate, vice chancellors) with other partners including police and BIS following a

drawn into terrorism.

The University has kept its Acceptable Use Policy for staff and students under review as necessary, accessing its IT systems to reflect the Prevent Duty. The IT team has ensured that filters recommended by JISC are in place and will continue to engage with future JISC guidance.

To enable the university to identify and address issues where online materials are accessed for non-research purposes, we would expect to see clear policies and procedures for students and staff working on sensitive or extremism-related research. Universities UK has provided guidance to help universities manage this, which is available at [UUK Research Security](#)

The University's research relates to the Agri-Food Chain and there are no instances of staff or students working on sensitive (in the context of Prevent) or extremism-related research. All research is considered through the University's Research Ethics Committee and any issues that might arise in the future would be identified by the work of that Committee. Given the current level of risk no further actions beyond the routine monitoring by the existing Research Ethics Committee are currently planned.

Student unions and societies

Institutions should have regard to the duty in the context of their relationship and interactions with student unions and societies. They will need to have clear policies setting out the activities that are or are not allowed to take place on campus and any online activity directly related to the university. The policies should set out what is expected from the student unions and societies in relation to Prevent including making clear the need to challenge extremist ideas which risk drawing people into terrorism. We would expect student unions and societies to work closely with their institution and co-operate with the institutions' policies.

The University's revised Freedom of Speech policy was approved by the Board in July 2023 further to the Higher Education Freedom of Speech Act 2023. The Freedom of Speech Policy addresses these points and the newly updated version has been shared with the SU. The SU will be developing its own Policy in 2023/24 as required by the new legislation. As most external speakers address students/staff on subjects related to the Agri-Food chain and it follows that the likelihood of the need to challenge extremist ideas during such talks is very low. On the rare occasions where an Agri-food industry related topic may be seen as in any way "controversial" e.g. field sports, GM Crops or similar; care is taken to ensure that speakers reflect and present balanced arguments "for" and "against" such matters, and that Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech are preserved. Senior staff may act as Chair of the session in such cases and/or staff including senior staff may attend and participate in the discussion to ensure that Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech are maintained.

Student unions, as charitable bodies, are registered with the Charity Commission and subject to charity laws and regulations, including those that relate to preventing terrorism. Student Unions should also consider whether their staff and elected officers would benefit from Prevent awareness training or other relevant training provided by the Charity Commission, regional Prevent co-ordinators or others.

The SU Director has briefed the Student's Union Executive and SU Trustees. This engagement with the Student's Union will continue in the future.

Further information can be located in the following documents which are published on DfE/relevant web pages:

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and Regulations 2015 and as amended

Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales, published 16 July 2015 and as amended

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