



Prevent Duty Annual Accountability and Data Return

Outcome requested:	Council is asked to approve the Prevent Duty Accountability and Data Return for 2023–24 on the recommendation of Audit and Risk Committee.
Executive Summary:	<p>[a] The University is required to submit an annual accountability return to the OfS on the implementation of the Prevent duty comprising four declarations and supporting data.</p> <p>[b] Declaration 1: The University has had due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent duty).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our registered Prevent duty lead is the Director of Student Experience, supported by the Head of Student Wellbeing, who both attend regular briefing sessions with the Regional Prevent Co-ordinator for London.• Our primary routes to compliance are the Safeguarding Policy and the Freedom of Speech Policy, both of which are operating effectively and were reviewed within the last 12 months. The Students' Union provides data to the University on external speakers booked via student societies and events and this is collated with university data to complete the submission.• No external speakers were denied a platform in 2023-24. 12 were subject to mitigations to enable them to speak, 9 of these were due to 'Prevent related concerns'. These concerns stem from previous claims of speaker ideologies that could be construed as supporting terrorism, the mitigations put in place ensured there was no opportunity for the speakers to use the platform to incite attendees into extremism.• All members of staff in key Prevent-related roles have completed relevant training during 2023-24.• We launched a dedicated e-learning course on Prevent in July 2023 and 85 members of staff completed it within the reporting period. The course is required to be completed every two years. 125 staff completed it in the 22-23 reporting period.• In total, 1467 members of staff completed our Safeguarding Essentials e-learning course in 2023–24, which includes a basic level of Prevent related content.• A review of the Safeguarding Officer role has taken place with a new Safeguarding Steering Group overseeing relevant activities including the Prevent

	<p>Duty and a Safeguarding Network providing support to staff dealing with incidents and disclosures.</p> <p>[c] Declaration 2: The University has provided to OfS all required information about its implementation of the Prevent duty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data return for 2023–24 is attached to this paper. <p>[d] Declaration 3: The University 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no serious issues in 2023–24 as defined by the OfS (i.e. any incidents or developments which have led to the review and substantive revision of Prevent-related policies, have caused reputational harm or harm to staff and students and could be reasonably perceived as being related to Prevent). The OfS does not expect universities to report 'business as usual events', such as formal Channel referrals or informal contact with the police or local Prevent partners. <p>[e] Declaration 4: The University has reviewed, and where necessary, updated its Prevent risk assessment and action plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk assessment and action plan was updated in October 2024 and is attached to this paper.
QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies	Not applicable.
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	<p>Counter Terrorism and Securities Act 2015</p> <p>Ongoing conditions of registration with the Office for Students</p> <p>Prevent Duty Guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales</p> <p>University Safeguarding Policy</p> <p>University Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech</p>
Strategic Risks:	Compliance with the Prevent duty and ongoing conditions of registration with the Office for Students.
Equality Impact Assessment:	Equality impact assessments are undertaken whenever Prevent-related referrals are considered under the Safeguarding Policy and when Prevent-related issues arise under the Freedom of Speech Policy.
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	Following consideration by Audit and Risk Committee, the data return must be approved by Council and submitted to the OfS by the deadline of 2 December 2024.

Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA	No
Timing:	Annual return aligned with the OfS schedule.
Author:	Chris Shelley, Director of Student Experience
Date:	October 2024
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Jonathan Morgan, Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary

Office for Students Prevent monitoring

Accountability and data return 2023

Validation passed

Provider: Queen Mary University of London

UKPRN: 10007775

In all cases this data should cover the year from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023.

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 Prevent-related case, please add information about how the case originated (e.g concerns identified from behaviour online, or through accessing material online, through external speakers or as a result of a welfare issue). Maximum 300 words.

Table 2: Events & external speakers					
Question	Total	Health and safety	Procedural matters	Reasons related to Prevent risk	Other matters
i) Total number of events or speakers approved through the external speakers process (estimate to nearest 10 permitted)	517 speakers (451 QMSU, 66 QMUL)				
ii) Total number of events or speakers approved subject to any mitigations or conditions	12 (5 QMSU, 7 QMUL)		3	9	
iii) Number of events or speakers approved subject to any mitigations or conditions due to Prevent-related risks	9			9	
iv) Total number of events or speakers rejected	0				

Table 3: Training	
Description	Total
i) Number of staff identified as key in relation to the Prevent duty	223
ii) Number of key staff receiving induction Prevent training	67
iii) Number of key staff receiving refresher Prevent training	156

Ref	2030 Strategic Objective	Risk Descriptor	Risk Appetite and Tolerance	Requirements for student training will be monitored and implemented based on DfE guidance D)	Initial Risk Rating	Residual Risk Rating	Target Risk Rating
	Risk Owner/s Relevant KPIs	Description of the specific risks relating to the 2030 strategic objectives	The risk tolerance score represents the maximum acceptable risk rating	The scores in square brackets show the current status of the controls		(based on current controls)	
	16. Compliance - vi. Prevent Duty compliance Relevant KPI:	Governance and Leadership: Senior management does not implement the Prevent duty effectively and Council does not have sufficient oversight of implementation to be reassured compliance is being achieved.	The University has a low level of appetite for Prevent Duty compliance risk. Risk Tolerance = 6	Current Controls: The Director of Student Experience is the University's Lead Safeguarding Officer and Prevent Duty Lead, and chairs the Safeguarding Steering Group, which oversees policy and delivery of Prevent related activity. [A, Q3 2023 - Director of Student Experience]	Impact: 4 Likelihood: 3 Score: 12	Impact: 4 Likelihood: 1 Score: 4	Impact: 4 Likelihood: 1 Score: 4
				QMUL has effective relationships with local police and Regional Prevent Co-ordinators and a forum has been identified through which these institutional relationships are maintained. [A]			
				QMUL is actively engaged with sector-wide networks regarding the Prevent duty and for sharing information about external speakers. [A]			
				The Prevent duty is included on the strategic risk and legal compliance registers. [A]			
				The Principal's Office is part of the formal escalation process for the approval of external speakers and events. [A]			
				Audit and Risk Committee and Council receive regular briefings and updates on the Prevent duty. (A)			
				Further Controls: Engagement is maintained through periodic reports from the QMUL Safeguarding Steering Group to Queen Mary Senior Executive, including this risk register. [A]			
				The QMUL Prevent Duty Lead receives reports from formal liaison with the police and the Regional Prevent Co-ordinator. [A]			
				The Chief Officers review the Strategic Risk Register regularly. [A]			
		Training: Relevant training is not delivered to required staff and students		Current Controls: Safeguarding Essentials is mandatory training course for staff and covers Prevent policy and practice, Human Resources monitor uptake. Course was updated in 2023-24 A)	Impact: 3 Likelihood: 3 Score: 9	Impact: 3 Likelihood: 1 Score: 3	Impact: 3 Likelihood: 1 Score: 3
				Additional training has been provided to staff supporting Degree Apprenticeships A)			
				Additional Prevent briefing sessions are periodically arranged via the local Prevent Coordinator. The QMUL Safeguarding Steering Group is responsible for reviewing the list of staff who need additional Prevent briefing sessions. Steering Group composition and training requirements were reviewed in 2023-24 including to ensure relevant staff supporting Degree Apprenticeships received training A)			
				The Lead Safeguarding Officer undertakes Level 3 Designated Safeguarding Officer training every 2 years A)			
				Further Controls: Requirements for student training will be monitored and implemented based on DfE guidance D)			
				Staff involved in the approval of events with external speakers receive regular training which will be reviewed despite freedom of speech legislation not changing C)			

		Awareness: The wider staff and student community are unaware of the Prevent Duty and the university's responsibilities under it thereby increasing the risk of failing to comply		Wep pages promoted through internal comms channels including those on how to report safeguarding concerns, report and support tool and student support contacts in schools.A)	Impact: 3 Likelihood: 3 Score: 9	Impact: 3 Likelihood: 1 Score: 3	Impact: 3 Likelihood: 1 Score: 3
				Prevent referrals is covered in Safeguarding Essentials mandatory training module for staff A)			
				The Vice-President Welfare and Deputy CEO of Queen Mary Students' Union are members of the QMUL Safeguarding Steering Group A)			
				Further Controls: Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed in 2024/25 to include specific reference to the timeframes that staff training will be monitored			
				Further Controls: Requirements for student training will be monitored and implemented based on DfE guidance D)			
		Vulnerable individuals: our students and staff are at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and if an individual is identified as being vulnerable the relevant processes are not in place or enacted		An internal communications strategy on the Prevent duty and local safeguarding arrangements has been implemented covering all students and members of staff. This will be reviewed in 2023-24 A)	Impact: 5 Likelihood: 3 Score: 15	Impact: 5 Likelihood: 1 Score: 5	Impact: 5 Likelihood: 1 Score: 5
				QMUL has effective relationships with local police and Prevent Co-ordinators and a forum has been identified through which these institutional relationships will be maintained. A)			
				The Safeguarding Policy and Procedure and the role descriptions of members of the safeguarding network have been revised to include explicit reference to sharing information about vulnerable individuals under the Prevent duty. A)			
				QMUL's whistleblowing policy refers to the Prevent duty A)			
				Staff handling reports submitted through Report and Support have received Prevent training so know what to do if an issue is flagged through those reports A)			
				QMUL receives an annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile which explains the risks relevant to London specific to extremism (A)			
		External Speakers: Students and staff are not prevented from being drawn into extremism by external speakers at university events, or the university is not compliant with Freedom of Speech legislation in its delivery of external speaker booking processes		The relevant policies and procedures of both QMUL and Queen Mary Students' Union have been updated in reference to the Prevent duty and are aligned with each other. The policies apply to all students and members of staff. A)	Impact: 5 Likelihood: 3 Score: 15	Impact: 5 Likelihood: 1 Score: 5	Impact: 5 Likelihood: 1 Score: 5
				QMSU Societies receive annual briefings about the external speaker booking process A)			
				Prevent Lead has relationship with local Prevent officers in Tower Hamlets and London with regular briefings about local risks provided to the university A)			
				Senate has debated the issue of freedom of speech and academic freedom in reference to the Prevent duty A)			
				QMUL's policies and procedures on research ethics have been expanded with further information about existing practices for approving security-sensitive and extremism-related research. A)			

				The relevant policies apply to QMUL or QMSU branded events taking place off campus as well as on A)			
				Further Controls: A new Code of Practice on Free Speech was agreed in 2023-24, aligning with the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 B)			
				Our relevant procedures have been reviewed following implementation of the updated Code of Practice on Free Speech and changes will be implemented in 2024-25 (C)			
				Staff involved in the approval of events with external speakers receive regular training which will be reviewed based on the review of procedures C)			
		Internet: our network is used to access content that could draw individuals into extremism		QMUL's policies on the use of IT facilities have been revised to make explicit reference to the Prevent duty. A)	Impact: 4 Likelihood: 3 Score: 12	Impact: 4 Likelihood: 1 Score: 4	Impact: 4 Likelihood: 1 Score: 4
				QMUL's policies and procedures on research ethics have been expanded with further information about existing practices for approving security-sensitive and extremism-related research. A)			
				Queen Mary Senior Executive has reviewed QMUL's position on internet filtering A)			
				QMUL's policies and procedures on research ethics have been expanded with further information about existing practices for approving security-sensitive and extremism-related research. A)			
		Welfare support: there is insufficient pastoral support for students of faith and the faith facilities we provide are used inappropriately		The policies for faith support have been reviewed in reference to the Prevent duty (A)	Impact: 4 Likelihood: 3 Score: 12	Impact: 4 Likelihood: 1 Score: 4	Impact: 4 Likelihood: 1 Score: 4
				There is a multi-faith facility on the Mile End campus. (A)			
				There is a protocol on use of the multi-faith facility which was updated following Prevent Duty guidance (A)			
				Student societies who use faith facilities are given support and advice on use of spaces and policies by QMSU (A)			

Risk Descriptor	Controls
Training: Relevant training is not delivered to required staff and students	Requirements for student training will be monitored and implemented based on DfE guidance D)
	Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed in 2024/25 to include specific reference to the timeframes that staff training will be monitored
	Staff involved in the approval of events with external speakers receive regular training which will be reviewed pending freedom of speech legislation C)
External Speakers: Students and staff are not prevented from being drawn into extremism by external speakers at university events, or the university is not compliant with Freedom of Speech legislation in its delivery of external speaker booking processes	Our relevant procedures have been reviewed following implementation of the updated Code of Practice on Free Speech and changes will be implemented in 2024-25 (C)
	Staff involved in the approval of events with external speakers receive regular training which will be reviewed based on the review of procedures C)