

‘Prevent’ duty compliance: Preliminary self-assessment report

Name of provider.....The Royal Veterinary College..... **UK Provider Reference Number**.....

Authorised by (name, position).....

Signature..... **Date**.....

Note: Paragraphs referred to are found in the statutory Prevent guidance: ‘Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales’ (PDG) and ‘Prevent Duty guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales (HEG).

Factor in the ‘Prevent’ duty guidance	Self-assessment rating (A to E)	Comments
a. Arrangements for senior management and governance oversight of the implementation of the provider’s ‘Prevent’ duty obligations and engagement with ‘Prevent’ partners (PDG paragraphs 16 and 17, HEG paragraphs 16 to 18).	A	Briefing papers on the Prevent Duty detailing: the meaning and implications of the duty; our plan of action to ensure compliance; and of responsibilities and accountability within the organisation and its management and governance arrangements have been provided to and approved by the RVC’s Audit Committee, Governing Body (Council) and its Senior Management Group (SMG). The SMG was booked to receive training from our regional ‘Prevent Co-ordinator’ in March 2016, however changes in Prevent personnel with this responsibility have meant that this is currently being reorganised. SMG will receive regular updates on progress, the Governing Body and Audit Committee will receive updates in the summer term and on an ongoing basis tied to statutory reporting requirements in each year.

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b. 'Prevent' risk assessment (HEG paragraphs 19 and 20).	B	The RVC Head of Governance, Planning and Compliance (HoGPC) as the 'Prevent' Lead and the Strategic Planning and Risk Analyst (SPRA) have developed both a 'Prevent' Risk Assessment and an Action Plan in response to that Risk Assessment (see below). These are being taken forward within the RVC to ensure that we are compliant both in letter and spirit whilst protecting academic freedoms. Formal approval by end of Spring term 2015.
c. Action plan in response to that risk assessment (HEG paragraph 21).	B	The RVC's 'Prevent' Action Plan has been developed in response to our Risk Assessment. Both the Risk Assessment and the Action Plan have been developed with and are being actioned through small Task and Finish groups arising from the RVC's 'Prevent Duty Steering Group'. They have also been constructed in the light of good practice being developed in the London HEI's 'Prevent' Network Group as well as available online resources. They are live documents that will be further developed overtime with progress on actions and mitigations reported into management and the Governing Body as appropriate. Formal approval by end of Spring term 2015.

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d. Arrangements for engaging with and consulting students on the provider's plans for implementing the 'Prevent' duty (HEG paragraph 16).	B	We have consulted via the SU on how best to engage with the Student Body. The HoGPC and SPRA have had a meeting with the SU President, the SU Vice President: Welfare and the SU Vice President: Representation and Communication, in order to brief them fully as well as seek input on the 'duty' and the RVC's approach to meeting it. The SU President is a member of Council and therefore has also received briefings as a member of the Governing Body. We have also engaged/ consulted with the SU Manager (an RVC employee) on the duty, our action plan, and the best means of communicating and consulting with the student body. We will be communicating proactively with the student body about the 'Prevent' duty and what the RVC is doing to meet it during the Spring term 2016.

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e. Training appropriate staff about 'Prevent' (HEG paragraphs 14, 15 and 22 to 24).	B	Throughout last term's consultation phase the HoGPC, and SPRA gathered information from the 'Prevent Steering Group' and others on which staff would be most appropriate to receive 'Prevent' training. We have created a prioritised institutional list and are working with HR on the best way of delivering this as well as to embed 'Prevent' in pre-existing training for pastoral and management roles. We are arranging for key staff from the 'Prevent Steering Group' to receive PREVENT 'Trainer' training at the end of January from our HE/FE Regional Prevent Co-ordinator as a first step – we are aware that several online resources are being developed (beyond WRAP) and we will be looking to utilise those when they are established as well as using our 'trained' trainers to cascade within the organisation. A full training plan will be agreed and active by the end of the Spring term 2016.
f. Arrangements for sharing information internally and externally about vulnerable individuals, where appropriate (HEG paragraph 23).	C	We will use existing welfare/referral systems to manage communications about vulnerable individuals internally but will be adding both training for appropriate staff and 'Channel' referral protocols to these systems. This will be active by Summer term 2016.

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g. Policies and procedures for approving external speakers and events on campus (HEG paragraphs 7 to 15).	B	There is an events policy and process in place which does capture issues and concerns that need to be escalated for approval / non-approval purposes. However whilst we are at very low risk from a 'Prevent' perspective (in part due to our specialist nature), our current policy is not comprehensive enough to meet the 'Prevent' requirements nor all of our own business requirements. It also does not yet reference any overarching principles in relation to Academic Freedom. The policy has been reviewed and is being revised for approval this term.
h. Code of practice for ensuring freedom of speech within the law on the provider's premises, including (if applicable) those of the students' union (if not covered in the external speakers and events policies) (HEG paragraph 8).	C	There is no existing Code of Practice for ensuring Freedom of Speech in part because it has not been under threat, however a Code of Practice is in development and will be embedded and/ or referenced in relevant related policies and procedures. We aim to have this in place by the end of this term or early in the Summer term.
i. Arrangements to protect the importance of academic freedom (if not covered in the external speakers and events policies) (HEG paragraph 8).	C	As for h) there has not previously been felt to be a need to offer explicit protection but the principles and importance of academic freedom will be developed alongside the Code of Practice for Freedom of Speech and will be embedded and / or referenced in relevant related policies and procedures. We aim to have this in place by the end of this term or early in the Summer term.

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j. Policies and procedures for approving branded events taking place off campus (if not covered in the external speakers and events policies) (HEG paragraph 12).	D	This is only loosely controlled (but not high risk for RVC) at the moment. Appropriate controls will be put in place as part of general branding and communications policy development. Due to low risk levels this will be timetabled for consideration and approval in the Summer term.
k. Arrangements for sharing information about external speakers with other providers, where legal and appropriate (if not covered in the external speakers and events policies) (HEG paragraph 14).	C	We have no current policy nor procedure to cover this new requirement. It is being reviewed and built into the revised external speakers and events policies and will hopefully draw on good practice being developed within the London HEI's 'Prevent' Network Group. Arrangements will be active from beginning of Summer term 2016.
l. Arrangements for ensuring sufficient pastoral and chaplaincy support for all students (including arrangements for managing prayer and faith facilities) (HEG paragraphs 25 and 26).	B	The RVC has very strong chaplaincy and pastoral arrangements in place covering a reasonably small student body, and these are being strengthened in the light of a recent review of student well-being. The RVC already has an approved Religion and Belief policy which covers booking rooms for faith related events as well as the use of our quiet room facilities (<i>NB these are not suitable for groups, only for individual acts of meditation or worship</i>). The College Chaplain is a member of the 'Prevent' Steering Group and works closely with our student welfare team. Policies will be updated in line with events policies and codes of practice for freedom of speech and academic freedom by the beginning of the Summer term 2016.

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m. Policies for the use of the provider's computer facilities (hardware, software, networks, social media), to include consideration of filtering arrangements and of academic activities that might require online access to sensitive or extremism-related material (HEG paragraphs 27 and 28).	B	The RVC's IT Acceptable Use Policy has already been reviewed, approved and re-issued to cover compliance with the Counter Terrorism Act 2015. Filtering and monitoring arrangements will be reconsidered by our IT Strategy Group during the Spring term 2016 as part of the Action Plan. Careful consideration will be given to the value (effectiveness) and cost of action in relation to risk when individual access to the internet is now ubiquitous.
n. Arrangements for engaging with students' unions and societies, which are not subject to the 'Prevent' duty but are expected to cooperate with their institution (HEG paragraph 29).	A	The HoGPC and SPRA have had a meeting with the SU President, the SU Vice President: Welfare and the SU Vice President: Representation and Communication, in order to brief them fully as well as seek input on the 'duty' and the RVC's approach to meeting it. The SU President is a member of Council and therefore has also received briefings as a member of the Governing Body. We have also engaged/ consulted with the SU Manager (an RVC employee) on the duty, our action plan, and the best means of working with the student union.

Rating scale:

- A** Arrangements, including documented policies and procedures, are in place and have been reviewed and updated as necessary to reflect the statutory Prevent guidance. Where appropriate, they have been formally approved. They are active.
- B** Arrangements, including documented policies and procedures, are in place, but need to be reviewed against the statutory 'Prevent' duty guidance, updated as necessary and, where appropriate, formally approved.
- C** Arrangements, including documented policies and procedures, are in preparation.

D Arrangements, including documented policies and procedures, have not been prepared yet.

E This factor does not apply, so arrangements are not in place.

Providers that have assessed themselves to be B, C or D should indicate in the comments column a timescale by which they will reach level A.

Providers that consider a factor does not apply should explain why in the comments column.