
PREVENT Annual Report - 1st December 2016

This report provides information to HEFCE on how the RVC has continued to show 'due regard' to the statutory Prevent duty for the Higher Education Sector. The report follows the requirements laid out in the ['Updated framework for the monitoring of the Prevent duty in higher education in England' \(HEFCE September 2016/24\)](#).

1. Evidence of ongoing engagement and active implementation of the Prevent duty.

- 1a) *Senior management and governance oversight of the implementation of the provider's 'Prevent' duty obligations:* Our Senior Management Group, Audit Committee and Council have continued to receive information on how we are meeting the requirements of the 'Prevent duty' via update papers on actions and on HEFCE's initial assessment. They will all be in receipt of this report and will continue receive regular updates on progress and/ or any issues arising. We have also briefed our Academic Board in the context of the Policy and Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Expression and will again continue to do so for relevant issues. We have also briefed the Equality Strategy Group in the context of giving 'due regard' to the aims of the public sector equality duty (Equality Act 2010) and to gain a wider perspective on any equality impacts emerging from our approach to the 'Prevent' duty. We will be taking another 'Prevent' briefing to our Equality Strategy Group (ESG) in the New Year in order to keep the group up to date but also because the membership of the ESG has been changed following a review of its constitution.
- 1b) *Engagement with 'Prevent' partners (PDG paragraphs 16 and 17, HEG paragraphs 16 to 18):* Although there was a hiatus between *Prevent Regional HE/FE Co-ordinators in London*, we have pro-actively engaged with our new Regional Co-ordinator both in relation to a direct query (see 4d. below) and in a mutual briefing meeting in August 2016. We have also engaged pro-actively with our HEFCE lead around our initial self-assessment. We do have some concerns and these are addressed under 3c. in relation to support and issues encountered over the past year.
- 1c) *Engagement with students on the provider's plans for implementing the 'Prevent' duty (HEG paragraph 16). 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):* The SU President is a member of Council and therefore receives briefings as a member of the Governing Body, they also have ready access to the Governance Team to provide support and advice on any issues arising for them. Since the initial engagement and training of the SU team (the SU President, the SU Vice President: Welfare and the SU Vice President: Representation and Communication), the Governance Team has had a follow up meeting with the SU board in order to brief them fully as well as seek input on the 'duty' and the RVC's approach to meeting it. This included all the SU representatives that are trustees.

New SU Officers have now been elected and the 'Prevent' leads are briefing and providing appropriate training for them now that they have assumed their new roles.

The Prevent leads have also been visible and available to the student body by attending Welfare Fairs arranged by our student welfare team, and 'manning' a table on Prevent to answer questions and offer opportunity for feedback.

We need to brief our incoming student intake however we are aware that there is a period of information overload in the early weeks while students find their feet. We are also anecdotally and experientially aware of a poor take up with regard to student attention to non-social and non-curriculum issues and welfare and support being engaged with at the point of crisis rather than pre-emptively. We will therefore, once again, attend the Welfare Fairs in order in February to enable better visibility and offer support. We are also now reviewing our approach to print collateral in terms of posters and fliers, signposting to welfare services and the Prevent part of our website. We will therefore be working with registry and course support teams to see where best to embed information in existing communications.

- 1d) *Policy and Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Expression:* Although the RVC did have a Policy in compliance with the requirements of the Education Act 1988, it has been thoroughly reviewed in the context of the 'Prevent' duty, and in relation to other legislative limitations as well as concepts of Freedom of Expression and Academic freedom. The revised policy and code of practice (which lays out specific responsibilities for the first time) was considered and debated by our Academic Board, Senior Management Group and finally Council for approval in June 2016.

2. Responses to Outstanding actions from the initial assessment phase.

We have no outstanding actions from the initial assessment phase.

3. Additional Information

- 3a) *Web filtering:* As previously reported the RVC's IT Acceptable Use Policy has already been reviewed, approved and re-issued to cover compliance with the Counter Terrorism Act 2015. Our Internal Auditors to carry out an 'information security' audit and although this audit included a range of questions regarding 'Prevent' considerations this was not reflected in recommendations or commentary in its final report. We are therefore going to reconsider filtering and monitoring arrangements through our IT Security Group and in the context of 'Prevent', at its meeting on the 15th November 2016. As indicated previously careful consideration will be given to the value (effectiveness), appropriateness and cost of action in relation to risk when individual access to the internet is now ubiquitous. The issues will be considered in the light of UCISA and JISC guidance. Filtering and blocking have been considered relatively recently but to date have currently only decided to block torrent sites. Our specialist nature and existing ethical approval procedures provide further mitigation for what is already a very low risk for us in relation to staff or student legitimately accessing sensitive materials, and we are currently setting up a social science ethical review board which will provide specific expertise, advice and scrutiny in this area.
- 3b) *Franchise Partners:* We do not have any Franchise Partners.
- 3c) *Further support and issues encountered over the past year:* Due to the turnover of Prevent Regional HE/FE Co-ordinators in London, there has been a lack of resource in London and although this issue has now been addressed some areas of good practice that emerged early on, such as 'Prevent'

network meetings, have fallen by the wayside which does limit cross-institutional and regional intelligence.

The RVC has two campuses one in London (Camden) and the other in Hertfordshire (Brookmans Park). We have, despite several attempts, had no success in engaging with the Hertfordshire CTSA. We are now considering an alternative approach and have made contact with the 'Prevent Leads' at Hertfordshire university to see how they have engaged locally and too work collaboratively on 'Prevent' engagement.

4. Data & Commentary

- 4a) *Number and proportion of staff who have received Prevent-related training: 85 staff which represents c.9% of total head count staff have received training from either the Prevent leads, the Safe Campus Communities, WRAP or Regional Co-ordinators. (Lead: 12 / WRAP: 38/ Safe Campus Communities: 31/ HEFCE: 4).* Throughout last year'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. A prioritised institutional list was crated and additionally we are working with HR on the best way embedding 'Prevent' in pre-existing training for pastoral and management roles. Key staff from the 'Prevent Steering Group' received PREVENT 'Trainer' training at the end of January from our HE/FE Regional Prevent Co-ordinator as a consequence of this the 'Prevent' leads have now also delivered training to the SMG. We have use SCC and WRAP training primarily and have sent out regular reminders to staff not only to undertake the training but also to report to the Prevent leads when they have done so. Due to this self-reporting requirement there is a risk of underreporting in our figures. We are not planning to mandate the training but we will look to encourage greater penetration across teaching and clinical staff which will do via engagement with new and existing departmental heads.

- 4b) *The number of high-risk events escalated to the highest levels of approval: 0*
Being a small and specialist institution, the majority of our events both internal and external are very discipline focussed and therefore do not involve the kind of topics or speakers who are engaged with or close to breach of the various forms of legislation that provide legal parameters for free speech and expression.

All of those involved in events in the Central team, in the SU (including and most importantly the general manager) and the Chaplaincy and Advice Centre Manager have had Prevent training or briefings and direct contact and consultation with the 'Prevent' leads at the RVC and BIS. Being a small institution we have very short lines of communication and concern – if there was an early problem it was one that was somewhat contrary to our Policy and Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Expression with very uncontroversial events and not at all linked to the 'Prevent' duty. Even so, this was queried with the Governance and Compliance team. The team's response combined with training have addressed this early and minor issue.

- 4c) *Welfare concerns escalated internally and shared externally with Prevent Partners: 1*
We have had one welfare concern relating to a former employee making contact the institution (rather than a current student or staff member). This was escalated very rapidly to the RVC Prevent leads and contact was then made with ... We received advice that i. right to refer, but also ii. that the indicators of concern were not sufficient to warrant further action at this time. This practical experience reflects previous guidance we have had that the bar for referral/ concern is set very high, it has also indicated that we have had a good penetration to staff with regard to understanding the 'Prevent' duty and our internal referral mechanisms.

4d) *Formal referrals to multi-agency Prevent processes (i.e. Channel referrals):0*

Please see 4c. No other causes of concern have been reported and internal processes and appropriate consultation with partners will always be undertaken before a Channel referral is considered.

5. Appendices provided to SMG, Audit Committee and Council for their consideration:

Appendix A: PREVENT Training Plan

Appendix B: PREVENT Risk Assessment - Autumn 2016 review

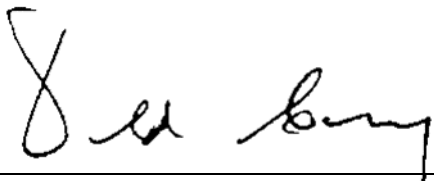
Appendix C: PREVENT Action Plan - Autumn 2016 review

6. Declaration from the Council of the Royal Veterinary College

Throughout the academic year and up to the date of approval, the Royal Veterinary College

- has had due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent duty)
- has provided to HEFCE all required information about its implementation of the Prevent duty
- has reported to HEFCE 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.

Signature: _____



Lord Curry of Kirkharle, Chair of Council

Date: 23rd November 2016