
Prevent Policy

Policy Ref	SEC - 009	Policy Owner: Security and Conduct Manager
Approving Body	VCAG	Executive Lead: Finance Director
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1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on all universities as a relevant higher education body (RHEB) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This legislation is given specific statutory force through the Prevent duty guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales, referred to as the 'Prevent Duty'.
- 1.2 The Royal Agricultural University is committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of our community, encouraging debate and discussion, whilst seeking to safeguard those that are vulnerable. It is within this context that we seek to balance the legal obligations placed upon us in the implementation of the Prevent Duty. The University must balance the requirements of Prevent with its core belief that the cultural, religious and ethnic diversity of its staff and students should be celebrated. It must also meet its legal and moral obligation to allow and promote academic freedom and free speech.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide high-level information on the requirements of the Prevent Duty, the University's approach to complying with the duty, and how the arrangements required under the Duty are being satisfied. Further details on specific arrangements in place are provided in separate policies and procedures.

Prevent Procedures

Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Procedures

Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech

IT Acceptable Use Policy

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

3. Scope

- 3.1 This Policy sets out the Royal Agricultural University's approach to the Prevent Duty and applies to all staff, students and visitors to the University.
- 3.2 The activities of University staff and students taking place away from University sites will also fall within the Policy's scope if they are undertaking activities that are authorised by the University. This also includes all activities organised by the RAUSU.

4. Approach

- 4.1 Section 21 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 states that the authorities (including Higher Education institutions) subject to the provisions must have regard to this guidance when carrying out the duty. Prevent work is intended to deal with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK.

The Prevent Duty has three specific strategic objectives:

- 4.2 Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- 4.3 Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- 4.4 Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address

The Prevent Duty also imposes a number of other requirements on the University as below.

- 4.5 The duty to protect young people and adults from harm extends to protecting them from involvement in groups, which set out to radicalise individuals. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of violent extremism leading to terrorism.
- 4.6 Within the Government's Prevent Strategy, Universities have been identified as potential sites for radicalisation and University leaders have been asked to work in partnership with the regional Prevent coordinators, local authorities and the Police to minimise the risks of individuals becoming radicalised. Whilst it is recognised that no single measure will reduce radicalisation, it is believed that the only way is to target potential at risk vulnerable groups and individual and try to re-assimilate them into society.

As a consequent the University will ensure that:

- 4.6.1 A member of the University's Senior Leadership Team will attend the

Gloucestershire Prevent Board on a quarterly basis to share relevant information in support of the National Prevent Strategy aimed at stopping people becoming or supporting terrorists or violent extremists. Chaplaincy and Pastoral support are available to provide support to all students.

- 4.6.2 The University will carry out risk assessments to assess where and how our students might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism and work in conjunction with other institutional policies to ensure the welfare of staff students and guests is maintained. From the findings of any risk assessment, the University will then develop an Action Plan, which will set out the actions we will take to mitigate identified risks.
- 4.6.3 Engage with other partners including other universities, law enforcement and the Government.
- 4.6.4 Have procedures for sharing information about vulnerable individual e.g. internally and with relevant external agencies.
- 4.6.5 Staff members will receive relevant annual training in order that they receive sufficient knowledge to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and what actions should be taken in response. The Governing Council members will also receive annual training to ensure they are fully conversant with their legal responsibilities.
- 4.6.6 A Freedom of Speech Policy is in place relating to the management of events on Campus and all its buildings and grounds. The policy relates to all staff, students and visitors to the University and clearly sets out what is required for any event to proceed, yet balance our legal duties in terms of both ensuring freedom of speech and academic freedom and protecting student and staff welfare. The Commercial Services Team will complete a Prevent Risk Assessment Form for every event. Details of the Freedom of Speech Policy can be found at: [Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech.pdf](#). IT policies will contain specific reference to the statutory duty. More detailed information regarding the Prevent Duty can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- 4.6.7 The University has in place a University IT Acceptable Use Policy, which applies to all use of all IT facilities. We set out in that policy a range of activities that would be of concern to us including issues that rise from the University's statutory duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This includes the creation, download, storage, transmission or display of material that promotes or incites racial or religious hatred, terrorist activities or hate crime; to instructional information about any illegal activities.

5. Relevant Legislation/Guidance

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- HM Government Prevent Duty Guidance for HE Institutions in England and Wales
Office for Students prevent Duty Monitoring (Sept 2018)
- Office for Students prevent Duty Framework for Monitoring (2018-2019)

Review

Frequency of review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.