

Prevent annual accountability statement

Throughout the academic year 2017-18 and up to the date of approval, the London School of Economics and Political Science:

- has had due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent duty)
- has provided to OfS all required information about its implementation of the Prevent duty
- 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
- has reviewed, and where necessary, updated its Prevent risk assessment and action plan

Accountability statement

Governing bodies/proprietors are required to provide a short statement (max 300 words) outlining the mechanisms to which they have been assured that they are able to sign the above declarations satisfactorily.

The Prevent Duty is overseen at LSE by: the LSE Prevent Group, which last met on 8 October 2018; the Audit Committee which last considered the issue on 22 May 2018; and – before each annual return – the LSE Council. Council approved this statement and return on 20 November 2018.

Council last approved our Prevent duty risk assessment on 21 November 2017. The LSE Prevent Group reviewed the risk assessment in October 2018, confirming it still valid, and approved a substantially updated Prevent action plan to reflect the anticipated requirements in 2018/19.

During the reporting period:

- LSE established two new staff networks to improve planning and risk assessment of events for both Prevent duty and wider free speech purposes. A small network of staff with risk assessment skills and experience automatically receives copies of event information forms submitted online and are able to flag up any concerns. A larger network of staff (encompassing event organisers from the 27 academic departments/institutes, 16 research centres, 11 relevant central service divisions and the Students' Union) is used to share alerts, updates and good practice.
- LSE revised our Code of Practice on Free Speech, with the active participation of a large group of academic staff and the approval of Academic Board then Council on 15 May 2018. The new Code specifically addresses the Prevent duty and improves LSE's capacity to facilitate free speech within the law.

LSE has considerable expertise in facilitating public events, many being on controversial subjects. The volume and nature of these events means that some can attract adverse attention from the media and other sources. Council confirmed that the School's policies and procedures, and their application, has served to ensure that freedom of speech on campus has been upheld in accordance with the statutory Prevent duty.

Name

Dame Shirley Pearce

Name	Dame Shirley Pearce
Signed	
Date	28 November 2018

Annex – Prompts when considering the declarations

While it is for each provider to determine how best they assure themselves that their institution has demonstrated due regard to the Prevent duty and they are able to sign the declarations to OfS satisfactorily, the prompts below may guide how governing bodies and proprietors can gain the necessary assurance.

- How have Prevent-related policies or processes been monitored e.g. relating to external speakers, welfare or safeguarding processes, and is there assurance that they are effective?
- Have you been provided with appropriate information and evidence that the provider is demonstrating due regard through relevant reports, updates etc.?
- Have staff assured you that the risk assessment has been reviewed in the past 12 months, and outlined any material changes of risk (and mitigations in response)?
- Have staff reported any serious incidents; and if so, have you been assured by how the provider has acted, including responses to any lessons learned? Equally, have you been notified of any near misses, and again, been assured that any lessons learned have been acted upon?
- Have you been assured that Prevent has been implemented in a proportionate and risk-based manner, including considering the duty alongside other statutory obligations e.g. freedom of speech?
- Is there visible and demonstrable ownership of Prevent at a senior level at the provider?
- Are you assured that staff have received sufficient training and awareness raising to implement Prevent effectively?
- Has the provider continued to work in partnership with its Prevent partners, including statutory agencies and students?

Further information and advice available from:

Prevent duty: Framework for monitoring in higher education in England 2018-19 onwards:
https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/3e9aa5d3-21de-4b24-ac21-18de19b041dc/ofs2018_35.pdf

Supplementary information note to our monitoring framework:

https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/19b94eed-d2ad-4a9b-bb92-ee0b410a1f1f/ofs2018_35_a.pdf

Committee of University Chairs illustrative practice note on Prevent:

<https://www.universitychairs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Illustative-Practice-Note-2-Prevent-Strategy-REVISED-2017.pdf>