

From: [LSEmail](#)
To: [LSEmail](#)
Subject: NEW "PREVENT" DUTY GUIDANCE FOR UNIVERSITIES: LSE RESPONSE
Date: 18 September 2015 17:25:35

NEW "PREVENT" DUTY GUIDANCE FOR UNIVERSITIES: LSE RESPONSE

Prevent is one of the strands of the government's CONTEST counter-terrorism strategy. Its purpose is to prevent terrorism. The Coalition government reaffirmed and updated Prevent in 2011, and earlier this year Parliament passed the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. As a result of that Act, new duties come into force for the further and higher education sectors from today, 18 September. This message is to let the LSE community know how the School plans to approach the implementation of the new duties.

The Act and its accompanying statutory guidance have been controversial, especially in respect of universities. LSE has actively contributed to sector efforts to improve the guidance. These efforts have had considerable success but some sensitive issues remain.

Essentially, from today, we are required to assess the risk of our students being drawn into terrorism and to set in place policies and procedures to mitigate that risk. We are required to pay particular attention to external speakers and events on campus, staff training, student welfare and pastoral care and IT policies. However, one of the improvements won has been a formal acceptance in the guidance that we must balance our Prevent duties against our legal duties in respect of ensuring freedom of speech and academic freedom and protecting student and staff welfare.

The School set up a group to oversee our response to Prevent early in 2015. The group recommended, and it was agreed, that it would be wrong to take any action in accordance with the government's wishes in respect of Prevent unless and until it became a legal obligation on us to do so. That decision has been respected.

Now, however, the School needs to take action on a number of fronts. Primarily this will be to confirm our expectation that our existing policies and procedures will be sufficient to allow us to meet our new obligations. However we shall also provide or facilitate training for a number of staff who may find it of most use, and make training available to other staff if they wish. There will also be a certain amount of formal risk-assessment and reporting involved.

I recognise that the new legislation has sensitive aspects. I wish to assure the whole School community that:

- no system of active monitoring students or their activities in the context of Prevent will be established; and**
- no referral of any individual in this context outside LSE will be made without the recommendation of the Prevent group and the express approval of the Director or the Provost as deputy. Approval will only be given in cases of serious and well-founded concern.**

Please visit the [web page here](#) for more detail. Lead responsibility in the School is held by Robin Hoggard, Director of Government Relations (r.hoggard@lse.ac.uk, 020-7955 7061), who will be happy to provide further information if necessary.

Professor Robin Mansell
Deputy Director and Provost
18 September 2015