

## Leeds Beckett University's Approach to the Prevent Duty

Document owner	Registrar & Secretary's Office
Target audience	Staff and students
Sensitivity	Public

### Introduction

1. The [Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) came into force for universities in September 2015, placing a legal obligation on Leeds Beckett University to have due regard to 'the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism' (known as the 'Prevent duty'). It forms one of four strands of the government's counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) and aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
2. The Office for Students (OfS) is responsible for monitoring the Higher Education sector's implementation of the Prevent Duty in England.
3. Leeds Beckett University has a network of staff and student groups including our [Faith and Belief Forum](#), [Race Forum](#), [Rainbow Rose Forum](#) and more, which serve to provide a safe and supportive environment in which to discuss issues relating to equality, as well as providing support and networking, and to share best practice. These forums host events which aim to promote good relations and foster inclusivity which includes providing information, raising awareness and bringing people together to explore different views and perspectives.

### University's Approach

4. Our University's approach to the Prevent Duty is primarily one of safeguarding the welfare of its students and staff. Governance and operational arrangements are in place to support its approach to discharging its duty. The University has a proportionate and risk-based approach to the Prevent duty, having due regard to the context it operates in and its commitment to academic freedom and freedom of speech as well as other key legislation including the Equality Act and the Human Rights Act.
5. Whilst our University will act within the law and ensure compliance with the Duty, we are clear that our approach will be proportionate and pragmatic and will be aligned with University values and culture. It sits within our overall approach to safeguarding and our commitment to equality and diversity. In particular, any measures relating to Prevent will be approached and managed in the context of recognition of the importance of freedom of speech. The University is also clear that, in its approach, it is not directed at a particular ethnic, social, ideological or religious group.

6. The University is aware of the sensitivities around the duty and:
  - is working closely with the Students' Union to ensure, in particular, the tone of information for students is appropriate.
  - has consulted with trades unions on key policy updates, in particular those relating to Freedom of Expression and Events with External Speakers.

## Events & External Speakers

7. The University is committed to encouraging the expression and exchange of views. It has a [Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Expression](#) (the "Code") in place. The Code provides a framework within which the University recognises its legal obligation to protect freedom of speech and the protection of academic freedom, and takes these into account when considering how it meets its obligations under the Prevent duty.
8. Staff and students must consult the Code, and follow the procedures contained within the Code, when organising events with external speakers.
  - [The Events Log \(staff-only access, Excel\)](#): The Events log is to be completed by staff and students that organise events so that the University has a central record.
  - [External Speakers Code of Conduct](#): This document should be provided to External Speakers in advance of an event.
  - [External Speakers Approval Flow Chart](#): This document sets out the process for getting an external speaker approved.
  - [Checklist for approval of external speakers \(word doc\)](#): This document should be consulted and completed for events with external speakers.

## Awareness and Training

9. Designated Safeguarding Officers and some front-line staff have been identified to attend further **Safeguarding** and **Prevent Duty** training sessions. For all other staff, an online module on **Prevent Duty** has been developed within the Training Library of the MyDevelopment training system. Staff can access this [short awareness session here](#).

## Governance

10. The **University Registrar & Secretary** is the **Institutional Prevent lead**. The University has a Prevent Working Group which meets regularly and maintains oversight of the University, carrying out its obligations under the Prevent Duty.

11. The Prevent Working Group oversees the implementation of the Prevent Duty in the proportionate and reasonable approach agreed by governors and senior managers, in consultation with the Students' Union and Trades Unions.

## University Membership

12. The Registrar & Secretary's Office and Students Services, represent our University on the multi-agency Prevent Silver group in the City, working alongside partners from the other Higher Education Institutions, Further Education providers, NHS, Safeguarding Board, schools, and the Probation Service, to ensure a 'joined-up' approach.

## Key Contacts

<b>Michaela Boryslawskyj</b> University Register & Secretary Institutional Prevent Lead Email: <a href="mailto:registrarsecretary@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">registrarsecretary@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a>	<b>Jo Jones</b> Associate Director, Student Services Email: <a href="mailto:jo.jones@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">jo.jones@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a>
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## Useful links

- [Safe Campus Communities](#) - A Higher education site dedicated to preventing violent extremism and radicalisation; promoting community cohesion, inter-faith relations; and the sharing of case studies.
- [NUS Good Campus Relations](#) - A NUS site to provide support for student faith and belief groups, societies and individuals.
- [Equality Challenge Unit guidance](#) - Promoting good relations on campus: a guide for higher and further education.
- [Equality Challenge Unit guidance](#) - Delivering the Prevent duty in a proportionate and fair way.
- [Chancel Process Guidance](#) - An advice note developed by the Department for Education, Home Office and HEFCE which provides further information to education providers on the Chancel process.
- [Prevent – Leeds](#) - Information about Leeds City Council's approach to implementing the Prevent Duty.
- UK Government: "[Prevent duty animation - public sector staff working together to stop radicalisation](#)"
- [Student Hub Wellbeing Pages](#)
- [Student Crisis Protocols](#)

## Related Information

- [Safeguarding Policy](#)