The *Prevent* duty

College briefing for staff

A Presentation by Central Secretariat

Imperial College London

Background

CONTEST – The United Kingdom's Counter-Terrorism Strategy

- Developed by the Home Office in 2003 response to 9/11
- First made public in 2006; latest version 2018
- Prevent first launched 2007: a response to 7/7 London attacks
- Aim of the strategy: "to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence."

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Background

CONTEST – Breakdown of the Strategy

Composed of the "four Ps": Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare

Aim is to reduce the threat of terrorism at all levels:

- Prepare to mitigate the impact of an inevitable attack;
- Pursue to apprehend suspects operationally and legally;
- Protect to protect the public through security measures;
- Prevent to stop people from becoming radicalised.

The Prevent duty

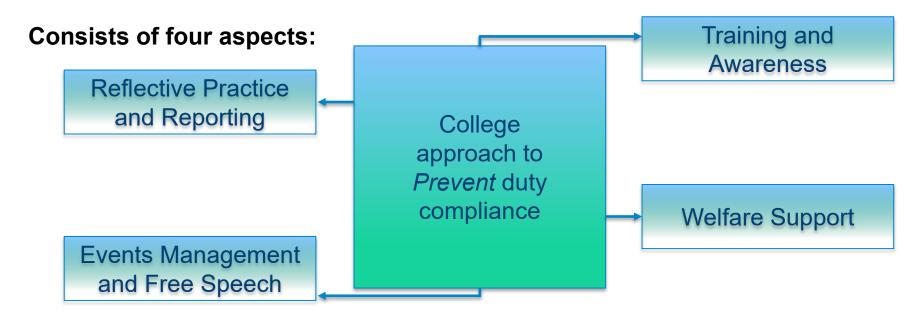
From the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015:

- " 26. General duty on specified authorities
 - (1) A specified authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
 - (2) A specified authority is a person or body that is listed in Schedule 6. "

Part 5: Risk of Being Drawn into Terrorism,

Chapter 1: Preventing People being Drawn into Terrorism

College Approach to *Prevent* duty compliance



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Welfare Support

- The College has a duty of care to its students, staff and visitors
- All College employees share in the responsibility for delivering this duty
- College treats Prevent as one aspect of the duty of care, not separate
- The aim is to safeguard vulnerable individuals
- College does not expect staff / students to actively look for Prevent concerns
- To be aware of our Prevent duty so the proper support can be provided

Welfare Support

- There are a multitude of different terrorist ideologies, movements, and groups seeking to influence and recruit vulnerable individuals
- But there are no common profiles for a Prevent concern
- A person may show some or all of the following:
 - **Engagement**: showing support for a terrorist ideology, movement or group
 - Intent: desire to cause harm in connection with such engagement
 - Capability: the know-how and means to cause harm

Welfare Support

The College's procedure for managing welfare cases that may be Prevent-related is called **Referral of Concerns**. This:

- recognises that a Prevent concern may arise in various different ways
- emphasises the need to first investigate the context
- relies on gathering and evaluating the facts sensitively
- enables quick communication and escalation, if needed
- documents the relevant information and decision making securely

Referral of Concerns

The College Secretary, Vice-Provost (Education) and the Academic Registrar take collective responsibility for:

- Reviewing the information gathered by the Local Adviser
- Deciding to refer anonymised information to the Local Authority for advice
- Deciding at a future point to disclose the identity of the individual to the Local Authority, and/or Police to enable more detailed external checks to be made
- Instructing the Local Adviser to meet with the individual and discuss welfare support, including the possibility of Prevent support

Events Management and Freedom of Speech

- The Education (no. 2) Act 1986 requires that universities ensure that Freedom
 of Speech is secured for its staff and students and for visiting speakers
- The College upholds the right to freedom of speech within the law
- It balances this with the need to challenge extremist ideas an express requirement of the Home Office's Prevent Duty Guidance
- The College's Freedom of Speech: Code of Practice underpins its room booking systems as well as those of the Students' Union

Events Management and Freedom of Speech

- The Students' Union's Freedom of Speech and Events Approval Policy covers all events organised by Clubs and Societies
- Applications for controversial events and speakers are evaluated by the College Secretary and the Managing Director of ICU
- Where appropriate, mitigations will be proposed to the event organisers to reduce any risks that have been identified
- The Policy is designed to enable student-led events to go ahead wherever possible; very few restrictions have been put in place in the past

Training and Awareness

- Training: this presentation is College's core training for appropriate staff
 - Embedded wherever possible within the College's broader welfare and wellbeing framework
- E-Learning: on Prevent is available to any member of staff at the College
- Awareness: The College's webpage on <u>Prevent</u> contains all key practical information on our approach and how to handle concerns
 - signposted to all new staff by <u>Imperial College Essentials</u>
 - Targeted emails at least once a year to wider groups of relevant staff

Reflective Practice and Reporting

- Reporting to the Office for Students takes place each December
- Paints a picture of our local risk profile and what we do to manage it
- Adds data on how many people have been trained, events, any potential or confirmed Prevent cases and the broader numbers of other welfare cases managed

- Training on Prevent is designed to encourage discussion
- Queries and suggestions are always welcome via email to riccardo.feasey@imperial.ac.uk

Thank you