University of Hertfordshire UH

Prevent Policy

UPR HS10 Appendix 7 version 02.0

Policies superseded by this document

This appendix is an addition to version 01.0 of UPR HS10.

Summary of significant changes to the previous version

This is a new appendix and it should be read in full.

Glossary

A glossary of approved University terminology can be found in **UPR GV08**.

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1   Introduction

1.1   The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal requirement on the University to minimise the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism. The University needs to have appropriate processes in place and policies to comply with this duty as we need to protect vulnerable members of our community.

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1.2 The Act also notes that Universities must seek to balance this duty with their commitment to freedom of speech and the importance of academic freedom.

1.3 This policy sets out how the University of Hertfordshire responds to its legal duties regarding the Prevent duty, including partnership with other agencies, and engagement with the Channel process (a supportive cross-agency intervention to support those who are vulnerable to radicalisation), and balances this against its commitment to freedom of speech[1].

1.4 Prevent duties are a key strand of safeguarding and are included within University of Hertfordshire's Safeguarding Policy[2].

1.5 This policy must be read in conjunction with the following University Policies and Regulations (UPRs) which all form part of our policy framework for Prevent:

Safeguarding Policy (HS10);
Bullying and Harassment (EQ10);
Equality and Diversity Policy (EQ03);
Freedom of Speech (EQ04);
Student Mental Wellbeing (EQ07);
Whistleblowing Policy (UPR GV16);
Student Fitness to Practice (SA15);
Drug and Alcohol Misuse by Students (SA11);
Student Mental Health (EQ7); and
Support to Study (EQ11).

2 Principles

2.1 The University of Hertfordshire is committed to ensuring that young and vulnerable people are safeguarded from being drawn into terrorism. As such, all staff should understand their responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of young and vulnerable people, including the duty to prevent young people from being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas that support or are shared by terrorist groups.

2.2 In consideration of its Prevent duties the University has regard to the duty to ensure freedom of speech, and to the importance of academic freedom.

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, definitions of related key terms are taken from formal guidance.

3.1 Terrorism

The Terrorism Act 2000 defines terrorism as:

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[1] UPR EQ04 'Freedom of Speech' (https://www.herts.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/232528/EQ04-Freedom-of-Speech.pdf)

[2] UPR HS10 'Safeguarding Policy' (https://www.herts.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/333422/HS10-Safeguarding-policy.pdf)

"the use or threat of action designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public, or a section of the public; made for the purposes of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause; and it involves or causes:

- serious violence against a person;
- serious damage to a property;
- a threat to a person's life;
- a serious risk to the health and safety of the public;
- serious interference with or disruption to an electronic system;
- Non violent extremism;"

3.2   Extremism

Extremist beliefs are those which directly contravene values which are fundamental to British culture and society.

3.3   Radicalisation

A process whereby someone has their vulnerabilities or susceptibilities exploited towards terrorism or crime – most often by a third party with their own agenda.

4   Prevent responsibilities and training

4.1   Prevent is the responsibility of all members of University staff. All staff must maintain an awareness of Prevent duties and undertake relevant training where required.

4.2   Prevent is a strand of safeguarding – any concerns should be referred to the University's Safeguarding Team. The Safeguarding Manager for Apprenticeship learners and the Dean of Students for all students/learners who is the University of Hertfordshire's Prevent Coordinator and main point of contact.

4.3   All University of Hertfordshire staff who are teaching or supporting a learner on an apprenticeship programme and all staff who are supporting students across the University and Consortium will undertake training in the Prevent agenda. Additional staff may also be required to undertake training, as identified by the Safeguarding Team or line managers; this is likely to include staff who are working for an externally contracted service provider. Training is delivered termly through the Dean of Students Office.

5   Reporting issues and raising concerns

5.1   University of Hertfordshire staff are not expected to be experts in recognising radicalisation, and staff are reminded that the Prevent duty is concerned with pre-criminal activity. It is therefore important to act if there are any concerns regarding the safety and welfare of students, including concerns about potential extremist views.

5.2   Any Prevent concerns should be communicated to either the University of Hertfordshire Prevent Lead, or one of the nominated Safeguarding Officers at the earliest opportunity. All referral details for staff are located in one central location. All concerns, allegations or complaints will be taken seriously, and the Safeguarding Team will implement actions as appropriate, including referral to the Counter-Terrorism Channel panel.

5.3   It is recognised that not all concerns will require referral to the Channel process, and the University of Hertfordshire Safeguarding Team will seek advice from the regional Prevent Lead as appropriate. All information and links to refer for learners and students is located here: https://ask.herts.ac.uk/degree-apprenticeships-safeguarding-prevent-and-health-and-safety.

6   Risk assessment/Action Plan

6.1   To comply with the Prevent Duty, the University of Hertfordshire has undertaken a risk assessment to assess where and how students might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, including non-violent extremism which may popularise views which terrorists may exploit.

6.2   An Action Plan forms part of the Risk Assessment and is reviewed regularly as part of the University Security Advisory Group Meetings (UHSAG). All information relating to any Prevent issue should be managed confidentially. Information should only be disseminated on a "need to know" basis, and should be stored securely, in accordance with data protection laws.

7   External speakers and events on campus

7.1   The University is legally obliged to ensure that speakers or events taking place on any University of Hertfordshire premises, or within any University of Hertfordshire activities, are not encouraging terrorism.

7.2   Any event taking place on any University of Hertfordshire premises, or within any University of Hertfordshire activities, is subject to the University of Hertfordshire's Freedom of Speech policy[3].

8   Use of University computing and networking facilities

8.1   The University has a range of policies relating to its information security and use; which can be viewed at

https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/governance/university-policies-and-regulations-uprs/uprs/information-management-and-systems

8.2   The University is very clear in our website, On-Line Communication and Social Media Policy and Regulation (UPR IM19) regarding the use of our computer facilities regarding material that is unlawful or might be prohibited by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and material that is indecent, offensive, defamatory, threatening, discriminatory or extremist. The University reserves the right to block or monitor access to such material.

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[3]   UPR EQ04 'Freedom of Speech' (https://www.herts.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/232528/EQ04-Freedom-of-Speech.pdf)

9   Welfare and chaplaincy

9.1   The University of Hertfordshire recognises that implementing the Prevent duty is a responsibility that applies to all staff. Nevertheless, some roles have a greater responsibility for the pastoral care of students and may involve working with students who are young and vulnerable. All University of Hertfordshire staff who are required to undergo an enhanced DBS check will undertake training in the Prevent agenda. Additional staff may also be required to undertake training, as identified by the Safeguarding Team or line managers.

9.2   The University has a full time Ecumenical Chaplain who is supported by several volunteer Chaplains representing most of the Christian denominations and several other faiths. They are available as a guide and support to staff and students. The Chaplain is in touch with other faith groups in the area who are not represented on the Chaplaincy team and can provide details and contacts.

9.3   The Chaplain is based in a multi-faith spiritual Centre which is located on College Lane Campus, and there is a smaller multi-faith space (MFS) on the de Havilland Campus. The Centre/MFS provide a space for worship, prayer and reflection, both formal and informal. The Key Centre also contains a meeting room for discussion groups and seminars, and the University Chaplain's office. The Centre acts as a worship space and contact point for people of all faiths and of none, and as a place for exploration of spiritual life. The Chaplain knows all the faith groups and societies run by the Students' Union and jointly chairs the Faith Society Forum, with the Students' Union, which meets once a term.

9.4   The University of Hertfordshire Chaplaincy is an inclusive chaplaincy, open to people of all faiths, or none. Use of all Chaplaincy facilities, including prayer rooms and meeting rooms, is subject to the approval of the Lead Chaplain. The Lead Chaplain will undertake training in the Prevent agenda and will provide support in complying with our Prevent duties. The Chaplain works with the Students' Union in ensuring that the policy works in accordance with the University Freedom of Speech policy and regulations, and Hertfordshire Student Union Guest Speaker Policy.

10   Partnership

10.1   In implementing its Prevent duty, the University will actively engage with regional and national partners, including the Police, Welwyn Hatfield Council, and Counter Terrorism Intelligence Unit representatives.

10.2   The Dean of Students Office represents the University on the Joint Agency Group, and the Dean of Students sits on the Responsible Authorities Group set up by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Community Safety Partnership and includes all local agencies both statutory and voluntary including the Police, Fire Brigade, Council, Drug and Alcohol agencies and the Health Authority.

10.3   The Dean of Students and the Head of Security and Resilience meet with the Community Safety Partnership on a regular basis, including the Chief Inspector for Welwyn Hatfield, Welwyn Hatfield Council Anti-Social Behaviour team, Police and Crime Commissioners Office and the Fire Brigade. Our Consortium Partners meet once a term and discuss Prevent as a standing item, this is also attended by our Regional Prevent Lead.

10.4   The Dean of Students Office, who are the central point for Prevent, any welfare and vulnerability concerns, including Channel referrals, have developed relationships and processes over many years with the local Prevent Officers, and will work in partnership to get the right help and support for our students. Information and training for staff is all located in one central location.

11   Who to contact for support

11.1   Safeguarding enquiries

Karen Turner, Degree Apprenticeship Safeguarding Manager,
Email: k.v.turner@herts.ac.uk
Tel: 01707 285090 (Ext: 5090)
Mobile: 07754858210 or 07980894283
Room: Student Wellbeing, Hutton Hub, first floor

11.2   Prevent concerns

The **Prevent Lead** for the University is:

Geri Ward, Dean of Students Email: G.1.ward@herts.ac.uk
Tel: 01707 284450 (ext: 4450) Mobile:07950633496
Room: Student Wellbeing, Hutton Hub, first floor

11.3   Lead Safeguarding Officers for each school

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School of Health and Social Work j.warrener@herts.ac.uk
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Sharon Harrison-Barker
Secretary and Registrar
Signed: **1 September 2023**

Alternative format
If you need this document in an alternative format, please email us at
governanceservices@herts.ac.uk or telephone us on +44 (0)1707 28 6006.

University Policies and Regulations (UPRs)
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