

PREVENT POLICY

September 2025

Contents

Summary.....	4
What is this document about?.....	4
Who is this for?.....	4
How does the University check this is followed?.....	4
Who can you contact if you have any queries about this document?.....	4
Introduction.....	5
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commitments.....	5
Purpose.....	6
Scope.....	6
Definitions.....	6
Preventing People from Being Drawn into Terrorism.....	7
Safeguarding Structure and Responsibilities.....	8
Guidance.....	9
Oversight.....	9
Implementation Date.....	10
Appendix 1: Guidance and Procedure.....	11
Appendix 2: Legal Context.....	15
Appendix 3: Safeguarding Structure Detail.....	16

Document title	Prevent Policy
Document author and department	Kevin Child Director Student Support Services (Principal Safeguarding Officer / Students, UoP Prevent Coordinator)
Approving body	University Executive Board (UEB) University Safeguarding Board (reported to Audit and Risk Comm Sep 2025)
Date of approval	23/06/2025
Review date	September 2027
Edition no.	1
ID Code	299
Date of effect	September 2025
Public access online (internet)?	YES
<p>External queries relating to the document to be referred in the first instance to the Director Student Support Services: email DSSSdirectors@port.ac.uk</p> <p>If you need this document in an alternative format, please email DSSSdirectors@port.ac.uk</p>	

The latest version of this document is always to be found at:

<https://policies.docstore.port.ac.uk/policy-299.pdf>

Summary

What is this document about?

This Policy outlines how the University will comply with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the Prevent Duty Statutory Guidance, while ensuring it protects freedom of speech and academic freedom. It details the University's approach to preventing people from being drawn into terrorism.

Who is this for?

This Policy applies to staff, students, apprentices, volunteers, visiting speakers, honorary positions, directors, and contractors engaging in University-led activity whether on the University campus or elsewhere.

Partner institutions and organisations delivering validated programmes or activities on behalf of the University of Portsmouth are expected to have in place their local PREVENT/ safeguarding policies and procedures.

How does the University check this is followed?

The University's Prevent compliance and approach is monitored through the Safeguarding Structure, with an annual report provided to the University Executive Board and Board of Governors.

Who can you contact if you have any queries about this document?

Further information, guidance and interpretation of this Policy should be sought from the Director Student Support Services by contacting kevin.child@port.ac.uk or DSSDirectors@port.ac.uk

Prevent Policy

1. Introduction

The University of Portsmouth is committed both to protecting freedom of speech and academic freedom and to protecting and safeguarding its students & staff from the risk of being drawn into terrorism.

This policy outlines The University of Portsmouth's commitment to preventing members of our community from being drawn into terrorism. In doing so we recognise that terrorism can be associated with a range of ideologies.

The University has aligned its Prevent duty with its broader responsibility for safeguarding and ensuring the wellbeing of its community. This policy operates as a companion to the University's Safeguarding Policy, sharing the same reporting mechanisms and governance structures. While this policy focuses specifically on preventing people from being drawn into terrorism, it should be read and implemented in conjunction with the broader safeguarding framework outlined in the [Safeguarding Policy](#).

All Prevent-related concerns should be reported through the University's safeguarding reporting channels and will be overseen by the University's safeguarding structure as detailed in the Safeguarding Policy.

2. Purpose

The Policy of the University is to comply with the Counter Terrorism Act (CTA2015).

In particular the University will ensure that it has in place appropriate arrangements to discharge the specific statutory duty set out in Section 26 (1) CTA 2015 "To have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism."

In exercising this duty, the University will have particular regard to other statutory duties to (a) ensure freedom of speech (The Education (No.2) Act 1986); and (b) have particular regard to the importance to academic freedom (Education Reform Act 1988).

The University must provide the OfS (the appointed Monitoring Body) any information it may require for the purposes of monitoring the University's performance in discharging the duty imposed by Section 26 (1), including information which specifies the steps that will be taken by the University to ensure that it discharges the duty imposed by Section 26 (1).

The University will participate in and cooperate with the appropriate local monitoring panel.

3. Scope

- 3.1. This Policy applies to all staff, students, apprentices, volunteers and contractors engaging in University-led activity whether on the University campus, UoP London or elsewhere (this is not an exhaustive list). It covers current students, prospective students, staff, visitors or those who are otherwise participating in University-related activities. This includes our core activities of teaching and research, as well as University-led sports, holiday schemes, volunteering projects, or outreach and widening participation activities.
- 3.2. The policy provides guidance on our internal procedures but acknowledges that it may be appropriate in certain circumstances to report Prevent related concerns to a range of external agencies.
- 3.3. The University recognises that young people, particularly, can be at risk of being drawn into extremist ideologies which can lead to a risk of radicalisation. In the context of the University's Safeguarding approach, the risk of being drawn into extremist ideologies and radicalisation is considered to be a significant safeguarding concern which is of equal weight alongside other forms of abuse and mistreatment of children and adults at risk. A safeguarding concern of this nature would fall within the scope of this policy.
- 3.4. In the event that the University-led activity is hosted by another organisation within their own facilities, the host organisation's Safeguarding / Prevent policy and related procedures will normally take precedence. However, members of the University engaging in those programmes must also take note of, and act in accordance with, the University's Safeguarding and Prevent Policies to the extent that this is possible in the particular circumstances.
- 3.5. This policy recognises that legitimate teaching, research, and academic activities may include engagement with materials, theories, or viewpoints that could, in other contexts, be considered extremist or radical. Faculty members retain the right to determine appropriate curriculum content within their disciplinary expertise, including materials that examine or critique extremist ideologies, terrorist tactics, or radical political views, when such content serves legitimate educational purposes. Academic staff should not be required to submit routine teaching materials for approval under this protocol, provided such materials are used within established academic courses and educational contexts.

4. Definition

- 4.1. **Radicalisation:** The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. (Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales, issued on 12th March 2015 and revised on 16th July 2015, definition)
- 4.2. **Extremism:** (New [definition of extremism](#) 2024)

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

- 4.2.1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
 - 4.2.2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
 - 4.2.3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).
- 4.3. **Terrorism:** The use or threatened use of violence for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

- 4.4. The University acknowledges that discussions about extremist ideologies, politically controversial topics, or challenging viewpoints form a legitimate part of academic discourse and are protected under principles of academic freedom. When assessing potential concerns under this policy, staff should consider:
- (1) the context in which views are expressed (academic vs. non-academic);
 - (2) whether the expression represents rigorous scholarly inquiry or personal advocacy;
 - (3) whether views are expressed as part of balanced academic discussion; and
 - (4) whether the manner of expression targets ideas rather than individuals or groups. Mere offense or discomfort caused by challenging ideas does not constitute evidence of extremism.

5. Principles

- 5.1 The University of Portsmouth is committed to fostering an inclusive environment in which the principles of academic freedom and of freedom of speech underpin our mission.

The University recognises the inherent tension and complexity in balancing these fundamental academic principles with its statutory obligations under the Prevent Duty and the associated external speaker protocols and is committed to navigating this balance thoughtfully and proportionately while maintaining its core educational values.

When implementing any aspect of this policy, staff must remain mindful of the University's paramount commitment to academic freedom and freedom of speech within the law. The University recognises that legitimate academic inquiry often involves engagement with controversial, sensitive, or challenging ideas, including those related to terrorism, extremism, and radicalisation. Such legitimate academic inquiry, when conducted through rigorous scholarly means and within the bounds of the law, should be facilitated rather than impeded by this policy. In cases of uncertainty, the preservation of academic freedom should be given significant weight in decision-making processes."

- 5.2 The University of Portsmouth is committed to ensuring vulnerable individuals are safeguarded from being drawn into terrorism.
- 5.3 The University of Portsmouth will seek to identify, protect and support individuals who it believes may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- 5.4 The University of Portsmouth discharges this responsibility in partnership with other agencies, including the Police, Local Authorities and the network of regional Prevent Coordinators.
- 5.5 The University of Portsmouth will contribute to the multi-agency Prevent agenda.

6 Institutional Duties

- 6.1 The university, at a senior management level, will actively engage with other partners including police, Portsmouth City Council and DfE HEFE Prevent Coordinators.

- 6.2 The university will make use of internal mechanisms to share information about PREVENT across the institution.
- 6.3 The University will ensure that Staff will be provided with appropriate training, specific to their needs in accordance with statutory requirements.
- 6.4 The University will carry out a risk assessment proportionate to the size and complexity of the institution. This will include satisfying itself and the Government that appropriate policies and procedures are in place to help identify and support any individual who may be vulnerable and provide clear management oversight of risks.
- 6.5 On the basis of the risk assessment the University will develop an action plan to address actions which need to be taken to mitigate potential risks.
- 6.6 The University will ensure that staff and students are made aware of the process for referring concerns regarding individuals.
- 6.7 The University will provide spiritual and chaplaincy support for students. This will include multi-faith chaplaincy provision and prayer / reflection space. The University will also liaise with local faith groups to ensure integration with the local community.
- 6.8 The University will work closely with The University of Portsmouth Students' Union to ensure that the policies the University develops in this area are supported, where appropriate, by the Students' Union.
- 6.7 The University will ensure that its [IT Acceptable Use Policy](#) has due regard to the duties specified in the [CTA Statutory Guidance](#).
- 6.8 The University will ensure that it maintains a "Security Sensitive" Research Archive that records all relevant research activity and those staff and students involved in such research.
- 6.9 The University will ensure that it has an appropriate Code of Practice for External Speakers which is regularly reviewed.
- 6.10 The University will ensure that any event that hosts a speaker or event where there is potential for extremist views that risk drawing vulnerable people into terrorism or views shared by terrorist groups will be balanced by also hosting speakers of opposing opinions at the same event.

7. Students' Union

7.1 Both the Students' Union (under the Charities Act) and the University are responsible for protecting students on campus from dangerous or radicalising bodies. Although the National Police Chiefs' Council document and GCR makes it clear that this is a shared responsibility, the overall control of access lies firmly with the University in the final instance and under the 2015 Act the Students' Union is specifically subject to the University's Prevent Policy.

7.2 The Students' Union is required to have specific policies stating which activities are, and are not, permitted by students and this is to include on-line activities. The Students' Union has a duty to challenge extremist concepts that legitimise terrorism and are to maintain records of such activity or issues. They are to have a direct working relationship with the University-appointed Prevent Coordinator. To enable this key process and cross-university working relationships, Students' Union staff will receive appropriate 'Prevent' training packages and risk briefing, in common with UoP staff. The Chief Executive Officer of The University of Portsmouth's Students' Union will also be a member of the Hampshire Prevent Partnership Board thus ensuring awareness of current risk and intelligence briefings and student representation.

8. Policy Review

The Prevent situation in terms of both statutory regulation and emerging risk factors is changing rapidly. It is essential therefore that this policy and associated procedures are kept under review. Significant changes to policy will be subject to the University Safeguarding Board, UEB and Board of Governors' Approval.

This policy is effective from 2025. It will be reviewed in July 2027.

Appendix 1

Guidance:

Key Safeguarding / Contacts

University level			
University Principal Safeguarding Officer Students	Kevin Child Director Student Support Services (Students)	07792502696	kevin.child@port.ac.uk
University Principal Safeguarding Officer Staff	Fiona Hnатов Chief People Officer (Staff)	07544 672907 / 023 9284 253	fiona.hnатов@port.ac.uk
Deputy Principal Safeguarding Officers	Gareth Pearse Deputy Director Student Support Services	023 9284 3128	gareth.pearse@port.ac.uk
	Rachael Lyons Deputy Director Student Support Services		rachael.lyons@port.ac.uk
Strategic Safeguarding Lead	Chris Chang, Deputy Vice Chancellor- Global Engagement and Student Life	023 9284 3404	Chris.Chang@port.ac.uk
StudentLife Team	Anna Vaernes Head of StudentLife	023 9284 3466	Studentlife@port.ac.uk
Faculty of Business and Law			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Zoe Dann, Associate Dean (Students)	023 9284 4827	Zoe.Dann@port.ac.uk
Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kevin Curtis Associate Dean (Students)	02392845466	kevini.curtis@port.ac.uk
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mary Williams, Associate Dean	023 9284 6030	Mary.Williams@port.ac.uk

	(Students)		
Faculty of Social Science & Health			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kirsten Farrell	02392843540	kirsten.farrell@port.ac.uk
Faculty of Technology			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Michelle Juchau Associate Dean (Students)	02392 842907	michelle.juchau@port.ac.uk
Human Resources			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Martin Hand Staff Wellbeing Manager	02392 843042 (Ext 3042)	martin.hand@port.ac.uk
Academic Services			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Sarah Kenyon Head of Student Systems		sarah.kenyon@port.ac.uk
Corporate Governance			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Paul Mould Executive Director	07702 028202	paul.mould@port.ac.uk
Global			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Daniel Wightman Exchanges and Study Abroad Manager	02392843149	daniel.wightman@port.ac.uk
LIS			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Kath Shakespeare University Librarian • Library and Information Services	07355 925 649	kath.shakespeare@port.ac.uk
Graduate School			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Vincent Adams Doctoral Development Manager • Graduate School	02392842983	vincent.adams@port.ac.uk
Sport and Recreation			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Zoe Monk Senior Sports Welfare and Safeguarding Officer		Zoe.Monk@port.ac.uk
Careers & Employability			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Liz Holford	02392842687	liz.holford@port.ac.uk
Academic Registry			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Rebecca Dipancrazio Academic Registrar	02392843282	rebecca.dipancrazio@port.ac.uk
Recruitment Marketing and Comms			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Louise Meredith Senior Outreach and Transitions Officer • Recruitment		louise.meredith@port.ac.uk



Estates & Campus Services			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Laura Cowper Health Safety and Wellbeing Adviser	02392845698	laura.cowper@port.ac.uk
Finance & Planning			
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Jim Hesbrook -- Head of Credit Control	02392843294	jim.hesbrook@port.ac.uk

The relevant policies and guidance that support the University's commitment to safeguarding our community are as follows:

Safeguarding:

- [Serious Student Incident](#)
- [Safeguarding Raise a Concern form](#)
- [Safeguarding Risk Assessment Template \(in Draft\)](#)
- [Safeguarding Risk Assessment Guidance \(In Draft\)](#)
- [Safeguarding For Apprentices](#)
- [Safeguarding Guidance for Contractors \(in Draft\)](#)
- [Safeguarding Guidance for Personal Tutors \(in Draft\)](#)
- [External Speaker Protocol Event and External Speaker Protocol 2025](#)

Disclosure and Barring Service

- [Disclosure and Barring Service for Students \(In Draft\)](#)
- [Disclosure and Barring Service for Staff](#)

Apprentices:

- [Apprentice Handbook](#)
- [Employer Handbook](#)

Health and Safety Policy and associated guidance:

- [University Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Children and Young People \(To be Developed\)](#)
- [Work Experience for under 18s \(To be developed\)](#)

Student Support Services Policies and associated guidance:

- [Support Services](#) (including Mental Health, Disability, and Counselling)
- [Safeguarding](#) Policy

Fitness to Practice

- [Fitness to Practice](#)

Fitness to Study Policy

- [Fitness to Study Policy](#)

Report and Support Policies and associated guidance:

- [Report and Support](#) (used for staff, students and apprentices at Portsmouth to report any incidents or concerns, including those related to sexual misconduct, bullying and harassment, discrimination, hate incidents and hate crime)
- [University of Portsmouth Values](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Student Sexual Misconduct Policy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Sexual Misconduct Procedure](#)
- [Student Complaints Procedure](#)

Research & Ethics

- [Research Misconduct](#)
- [Ethics](#)
- [Research Data Management Policy](#)

Human Resources

- [Staff Grievance Policy and Procedure](#)
- [Dignity and Respect Policy](#)
- [Occupational Health](#)
- [Employee Assistance Programme](#)

Freedom of Speech

- [Freedom of Speech Code](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Principles](#)
- [External Speaker and Events Protocol](#)

Whistleblowing

- [Whistleblowing Policy](#) (applies to everyone who is a registered student, apprentice, member of staff, or anyone contractually connected with the University),

Suitability of Staff working with children or adults at risk

- [Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy](#)
- [DBS Guidance for Managers](#)

If you feel that you or your team requires access to Safeguarding training of any kind, please contact dssdirectors@port.ac.uk where we will be happy to discuss your requirements.

Appendix 2

Legal Context

This Policy and related UoP procedures are informed by a collection of legislation and guidance relating to radicalisation and the protection of children and adults at risk. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. The Law affecting HEIs in relation to radicalisation.

- [The UK Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [The Data Protection Act 1998](#)
- [The Race Relations Act \(Amended\) 2000](#)
- [The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006](#)
- [The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005](#)
- [The Terrorism Act 2000 / 2008](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [The Counter Terrorism and Security Act \(2015\)](#)
- [Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales 2023](#)
- [The Higher Education \(Freedom of Speech\) Act 2023](#)
- [Safeguarding Policy: Protecting Vulnerable Adults](#)
- [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#)
- [Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019](#)
- [The Prevent Duty \(2023\)](#)
- [General Data Protection Regulation](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 1974](#)

2. Policies affecting HEIs in relation to radicalisation

There exists a range of policy documents issued from, or in relation to, the Home Office which directly relate to universities in relation to the Prevent Agenda including:

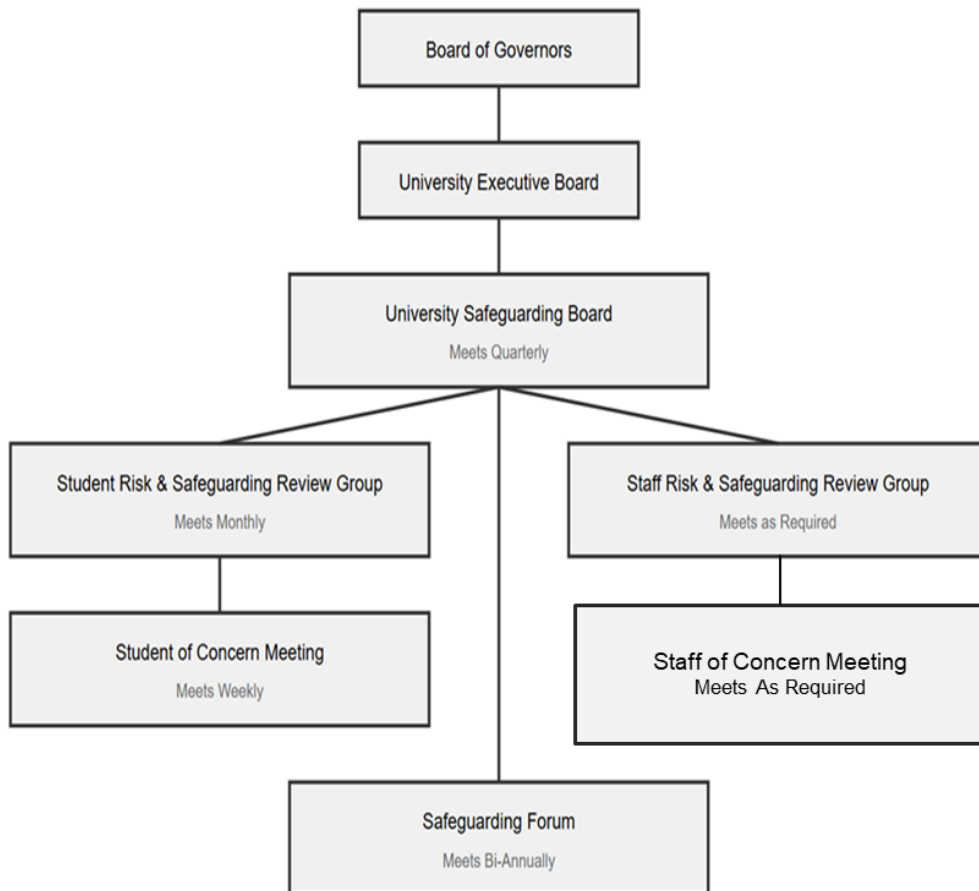
- I. [Promoting good relations on campus: a guide for higher and further education.](#)
- II. [Religious Observance in Higher Education. Equality Challenge Unit 2009.](#)
- III. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab: Report to UCL Council of Independent Inquiry Panel 2010.
- IV. [HM Prevent Strategy 2011.](#)
- V. Prevent, Police and Universities: [Guidance for Police Staff to Help Higher Education Institutions Contribute to the Prevention of Terrorism. ACPO 2012.](#)
- VI. Developments in Counter-Terrorist Measures and Uses of Technology. Prof Helen Fenwick 2012.
- VII. [Oversight of Security-Sensitive Research Material in UK Universities. Universities UK 2012.](#)

In support of our approach to 'Prevent' on campus The University of Portsmouth has also incorporated the duty into and development of the following:

- (i) Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech
- (ii) Safeguarding Policy
- (iii) Events and External Speakers Protocols

Appendix 3 UoP Safeguarding Structure

University of Portsmouth Safeguarding Structure





University of Portsmouth
Mercantile House

Portsmouth
PO1 2UP United Kingdom

T: +44 023 9284 3043
E: kevin.child@port.ac.uk
W: www.port.ac.uk