



Cranfield and the Prevent Duty

What is the Prevent Duty?

The University has a duty of care to its students. Under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, this includes a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent Duty.

How does this fit with the University's welfare arrangements?

The threat of terrorism and extremism in the UK can involve the exploitation of others to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism, and the promotion of extremist views or ideology. The Government's Prevent strategy aims to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised and subsequently being drawn into extremism and terrorism. The University therefore manages concerns about the radicalisation of individuals as part of its overall approach to student and staff welfare. Student welfare provision is co-ordinated and supported by the Student Wellbeing and Disability Support team and staff welfare through our People and Culture department. Information on how to raise concerns about any aspect of student or staff welfare is provided in the respective guides: [Worried about a Student?](#) and [Worried about a member of staff?](#)

How does this fit with the University's mission?

The University's Prevent Duty is not intended as a licence to 'snoop' on students. It does not override the University's commitment to academic freedom and freedom of speech, nor its policies on equality and diversity, confidentiality or data protection. In meeting its duty, the University has due regard to its [Values](#), particularly those of Community and Respect. Further information on the University's commitment is contained in the [Council Statement on Freedom of Speech, Meetings and Events](#).

What do we mean by "terrorism", "extremism" and "radicalisation"

The Government provides the following definitions:

- Terrorism:** The use or threat of action (serious violence against a person, serious damage to property, endangering a person's life, serious risk to the health and safety of the public, serious interference with / disruption of an electronic system), designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public, or made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.
- Extremism:** Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
- Radicalisation:** The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

How do I raise a concern about a student?

All concerns relating to extremism and/or students vulnerable to radicalisation should be reported to studentsupport@cranfield.ac.uk.

What will happen next?

The Student Wellbeing and Disability Support team will respond to all concerns, including those raised anonymously.

The Student Wellbeing and Disability Support team will provide advice and co-ordinate action which may be required, in consultation with the Deputy Prevent Lead. A confidential log will be maintained of the issues raised. Matters of serious concern will be referred to the University's Prevent Lead, the University Secretary.

Any decision to refer any concern outside of the University (whether to the police, the Channel multi-agency programme supported by local government, the Defence Academy HQ at Shrivenham or elsewhere) will be made by the Prevent Lead, in consultation with senior members of the University Executive, as appropriate.

How do I raise a concern about a member of staff?

Concerns that may fall within the scope of the Prevent Duty may first be noticed/raised as a wellbeing and/or mental health issue, and we want to be able to provide vulnerable individuals with necessary support to help them. Any concerns should initially be raised with your embedded [People and Culture team](#) (staff) or the [Student Wellbeing and Disability Support team](#) (students), who will respond to concerns raised, including those raised anonymously. These teams will provide advice and co-ordinate any action which may be required. For immediate concerns, where an individual is thought to be at imminent risk of harm to themselves or others, onsite Security should be contacted on 2222.

Matters of serious concern, relating to extremism and/or vulnerability to radicalisation will be referred to the University's Prevent Lead, the University Secretary in consultation with the Director of People and Culture.

How do I raise a concern about an external speaker or event?

[Concerned about an external speaker](#)

How do I raise a concern about a poster or leaflet?

[Concerned about a poster or publication](#)

Cranfield's commitment

As part of our Duty Cranfield will:

- Ensure that staff are aware of the University's Duty, through briefings and training;
- Maintain a risk assessment and action plan relating to our obligations under the Duty;
- Maintain and apply a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to the Government's Prevent agenda;
- Develop and maintain good relationships with other partners including law enforcement and Government agencies;
- Ensure that students are able to register any concerns they have with an appropriate member of staff;
- Ensure that University premises or facilities are not used for activities which compromise the University in relation to its Duty;
- Ensure that any significant risk or concerns are handled in liaison with the correct external agencies;

- Ensure that appropriate support is in place to support all individuals, including those about whom concerns are raised;
- Comply with the requirements and meet the expectations of the regulator for Higher Education, the Office for Students and of the regulator for apprenticeship provision, Ofsted, in regard to its Duty.