

8. Prevent Duty

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on all universities, including Northumbria, as a relevant higher education body (RHEB) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. 'People' in this sense is principally staff and students and those who represent the University. The Prevent Duty guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales was published by the government in late summer 2015. This document requires universities to review their arrangements to ensure the Prevent Duty is implemented, to be overseen on behalf of government by HEFCE as 'principal regulator' of the University. HEFCE has produced a Monitoring Framework which all registered HEI providers in England are required to satisfy.

As required by HEFC, the University has produced new and reviewed existing policies and arrangements linked to the headline requirements, including the following, which can be accessed here:

- Statement on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech
- Prevent Duty Policy Statement
- Visiting and External Speakers and Events Policy

For the reasons described above, the University's web filters may restrict access to materials that are linked to Prevent, e.g. webpages relating to terrorist groups (called "proscribed organisations"), hate speech/crime and other illegal activities. However, the University supports legitimate research into these issues. To protect staff and students from allegations of possible wrongdoing, the University's Research Ethics Online system ensures that research that may require access to this kind of material is identified at the earliest stage so that arrangements can be made, via the University's Website Filtering Policy and Review Process (sometimes known as a "whitelisting procedure"), for individuals who have received ethical approval for their Prevent-related research, to access otherwise restricted materials.