



### Prevent duty compliance

<b>Outcome requested:</b>	<p>Council is asked:</p> <p>[a] to <b>note</b> the framework introduced by HEFCE to monitor compliance with the Prevent duty;</p> <p>[b] to <b>approve</b> the process for Council to seek assurance that QMUL is fully compliant.</p>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p>[a] The Government delegated the statutory function of 'monitoring authority' for Prevent to HEFCE in September 2015 and HEFCE consulted with the sector on its approach during October. The approved framework was published in November and came into effect immediately.</p> <p>[b] All UK universities were required by 22 January 2016 to submit to HEFCE a preliminary self-assessment on progress in complying with the Prevent duty, signed off by the chief executive. The self-assessments will be used by HEFCE to identify institutions that require additional support and to provide BIS with an aggregated summary on progress across the higher education sector.</p> <p>[c] QMUL will be required to demonstrate full compliance with the Prevent duty by 1 April 2016 through a more detailed submission to HEFCE, with supporting evidence, which must be signed off by Council. The timing of this falls outside the schedule of meetings that was agreed before the beginning of the current academic year. It is therefore proposed that QMUL's detailed submission to HEFCE should be scrutinised by QMSE and then a sub-group of Audit and Risk Committee, before Council is asked to approve the submission by e-mail circulation.</p>
<b>QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies</b>	<p>Legal compliance enables the achievement of the QMUL Strategy.</p>
<b>Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:</b>	<p>QMUL is required to comply with the Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the Government's Prevent duty guidance.</p>
<b>Strategic Risks:</b>	<p>The Strategic Risk Register notes the need to maintain:</p> <p>[13] effective and constructive governance;</p>

	[15] security of people, assets and data.
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Concerns have been raised in the HE sector about the potential for discrimination against groups of certain religions and beliefs. QMUL will explore these issues in focus groups with student and staff representatives as part of the exercise to develop a Prevent duty risk assessment and action plan.
<b>Subject to prior and onward consideration by:</b>	Council last considered an update on the Prevent duty on 24 November 2015. QMSE has also received regular updates and approved QMUL's preliminary self-assessment on progress in complying with the duty on 19 January 2016.
<b>Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA</b>	No
<b>Timing:</b>	Council is required to give assurance to HEFCE that QMUL is fully compliant with the Prevent duty by 1 April 2016.
<b>Author:</b>	Jonathan Morgan, Academic Registrar and Council Secretary
<b>Date:</b>	2 February 2016
<b>Senior Management/External Sponsor:</b>	David Willis, Chair of Audit and Risk Committee

## **Prevent duty compliance**

1. The Government delegated the statutory function of 'monitoring authority' for Prevent to HEFCE in September 2015 and HEFCE consulted with the sector on its approach during October. The approved framework was published in November and came into effect immediately.
2. All UK universities were required by 22 January 2016 to submit to HEFCE a preliminary self-assessment on progress in complying with the Prevent duty, signed off by the chief executive. The self-assessments will be used by HEFCE to identify institutions that require additional support and to provide BIS with an aggregated summary on progress across the higher education sector.
3. Institutions will be required to demonstrate full compliance with the Prevent duty by 1 April 2016 through a more detailed submission to HEFCE, with supporting evidence, which must be signed off by Council. The submission will comprise:
  - [a] a copy of QMUL's Prevent risk assessment and action plan;
  - [b] a copy of QMUL's policies and procedures for managing and mitigating risks around external speakers and events on campus, and institution-branded events taking place off campus, including policies that reflect QMUL's duty to ensure freedom of speech and protect academic freedom;
  - [c] a report summarising QMUL's arrangements for senior management and governance oversight of the Prevent duty, engagement with students and QMSU, training, sharing information internally about vulnerable individuals, sharing information with other institutions about external speakers, ensuring sufficient pastoral and chaplaincy support for students, and the use of QMUL's computer facilities;
  - [d] on a voluntary basis, institutions may also provide data on the number of individuals considered, referred and accepted for the Channel programme from 18 September 2015, the number of external speakers referred to the chief executive for approval on or after 1 January 2016 (these data are currently reported to Council), and the number of staff who have received Prevent-related training (QMUL will monitor completion of training where this is identified as a requirement for the individual concerned).
4. Subsequent monitoring will be aligned with the annual accountability returns to HEFCE, supplemented with requests for individual institutions to submit supporting evidence on a five-year cycle, commencing in March 2017.
5. Since the launch of the monitoring framework in November 2015, there has been an additional requirement on universities to report to HEFCE any serious incidents as soon as possible after they occur. This does not cover usual business under the Prevent duty (such as straightforward Channel referrals and informal contact with the police), but should include any incident which has triggered revisions to institutional policies or which constitutes a serious reputational risk. Such incidents would also be reported to QMUL's Audit and Risk Committee.
6. Audit and Risk Committee has considered regular reports on QMUL's progress in complying with the Prevent duty in the context of its responsibility for seeking assurance on legal and statutory compliance. The additional requirement to report to HEFCE on compliance by 1 April 2016 falls outside the schedule of meetings that

was agreed before the beginning of the current academic year. It is therefore proposed that QMUL's detailed submission to HEFCE should be scrutinised by QMSE and then a sub-group of Audit and Risk Committee, before Council is asked to approve the submission by e-mail circulation.

7. Council is asked:

- [a] to **note** the framework introduced by HEFCE to monitor compliance with the Prevent duty;
- [b] to **approve** the process for Council to seek assurance that QMUL is fully compliant.

Jonathan Morgan  
Academic Registrar and Council Secretary  
2 February 2016