

Submission to HEFCE, April 2016

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1st April 2016

Dear Steve,

Please find attached our submission as part of the Prevent duty monitoring. I understand that you have discussed with Laura Gibbs that the Events and Speakers Policy is still in draft and we would request permission to submit a further updated version next week. Please also note that the updated policy still needs to go through the official approval process and we would expect this to be completed by the end of April.

I hope this provides you with sufficient evidence to assess our compliance with the Prevent guidance but please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any further information or clarification we can provide.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Amos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Valerie Amos

Director

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Prevent duty Compliance – Summary report

Senior management and governance oversight

SOAS takes its duty under the Prevent legislation very seriously. Oversight for Prevent is provided by the SOAS Board of Trustees and in particular by the Audit Committee who receive regular reports and updates on our implementation of the guidance. Operational oversight is provided by the Prevent Working Group which is chaired by the Registrar and includes representation from across the School as well as the School's recognised Trade Unions – see the risk register for full details of membership. As noted below the Student's Union has chosen not participate in the Working Group but is kept informed of the requirements under the duty by other means.

SOAS has always actively engaged with the local police and SO15 Counter Terrorism and coordinate and cooperate with them over any concerns raised about speakers or events at SOAS. We are part of the London Higher Education Prevent Network and are also members of Association of Universities Chief Security Officers which both provide the opportunity to work with others on developing our response to Prevent and our information sharing network. We also meet regularly with the regional Prevent officer, although we are currently waiting to hear who will be appointed to this role following the recent departure of the current officers.

Risk Assessment

The school has adopted a combined risk register and action plan. With regards to the combined risk register and action plan, the risk register is a living document that is reviewed at the monthly meetings of the Prevent Working Group. As actions for further control are completed they move to being an existing control in the risk register.

Engagement with Students

Please note that the Student's Union has chosen not to participate in the Working Group but they do receive all the papers and notes from the meetings and Prevent issues are raised at our regular informal and formal meetings between the School Executive management and the SU. Two of the SU sabbatical officers are also trustees of the School so will also receive the updates sent to the Board.

Training

Please find attached our training plan. We understand that further training materials are being developed by the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education and we will consider use of these materials once they become available. Please note that we do not have any SOAS run halls of residence but we do have, or are setting up, information sharing protocols with the organisations where we have formal nominations agreements to provide accommodation for our students. Please also note that we do not have a SOAS Chaplin but make some use of the services offered by University of London. Training for these individuals is provided by UoL.

Arrangements for sharing information

Please find attached at the end of this report

Policies and procedures for approving external speakers and events, Freedom of Speech and academic freedom, branded events of campus

All of these areas are included in our submission under Events Policy

Pastoral and chaplaincy support

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This is addressed in the risk register and is being further developed. SOAS has access to the UoL Chaplaincy service and we are working with them to review provision at SOAS

IT and research ethics policies

These policies are attached at the end of this report. The Research Ethics Policy is approved. The revised IT policy is due for approval next term. We also note that JISC will be providing further guidance in this area on due course.

Data return

Finally regarding our data return, please note that under our previous Events Policy the requirements for escalation covered a more limited risk horizon so our historical reporting of escalations is lower that would have been the case had the new Policy been in place. Please also note that we have reported one individual where we believed there was a risk of criminal behaviour to the police during the last 2 years.

Laura Gibbs

Register

1 June 2016



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Dear Baroness Amos

Outcome of Prevent duty monitoring detailed submission assessment

Thank you for submitting your Prevent duty documents in April as part of the initial phase of HEFCE's monitoring work. After careful consideration of the submission, I am pleased to inform you that we have concluded that overall the policies, procedures and arrangements submitted demonstrate that you have had regard to the Prevent Statutory Guidance in your response to the Prevent duty. However, we also concluded that further actions may be necessary in some areas, as outlined below.

Feedback on your submission and agreed actions to take

While we consider that overall you have had regard to the Prevent Guidance, we wish to draw your attention to some areas of your submission where further actions may be necessary to respond to the Guidance in full.

Within a set time-frame agreed with your named Prevent Adviser at HEFCE you should look to introduce the following measures, or provide us with a reasoned explanation for why these are not required:

- Under the Guidance appropriate staff should be given sufficient training to recognise vulnerability which draws people into terrorism, and know how to respond to this accordingly. Plans for refreshing training beyond initial round were unclear from your submission. Clarification should also be provided on how staff training plans will ensure that a sufficiently wide cross-section of staff are aware of the possible signs of vulnerability to radicalisation and how to respond.

Chair Tim Melville-Ross CBE Chief Executive Professor Madeleine Atkins CBE

Response from HEFCE, 1st June 2016

- The Guidance also stipulates that providers should have policies relating to the use of their IT equipment, including acceptable usage policies, and makes explicit that they should specifically reference the statutory duty. Confirmation should be provided once your acceptable use policy has been updated to reflect the duty.

In addition to the actions identified above, there were also areas where you have provided additional evidence via correspondence which, where necessary, we will expect to be reflected within established policies and procedures in relation to Prevent in due course. Your Prevent Adviser will discuss this further with your Prevent lead.

Next steps

Your Prevent Adviser at HEFCE will be in contact with your Prevent lead in due course to provide further feedback, discuss how you may make these further enhancements, and agree a set time-frame for completing these actions.

If you have any further questions or queries, please contact your Prevent Adviser, Arlene Francis, in the first instance.

Yours sincerely


Professor Madeleine Atkins CBE

Chair Tim Melville-Ross CBE Chief Executive Professor Madeleine Atkins CBE