

Office for
Students

The logo for the Office for Students, featuring a dark blue square with a yellow square in the top right corner containing the letters 'OfS' in dark blue.

OfS

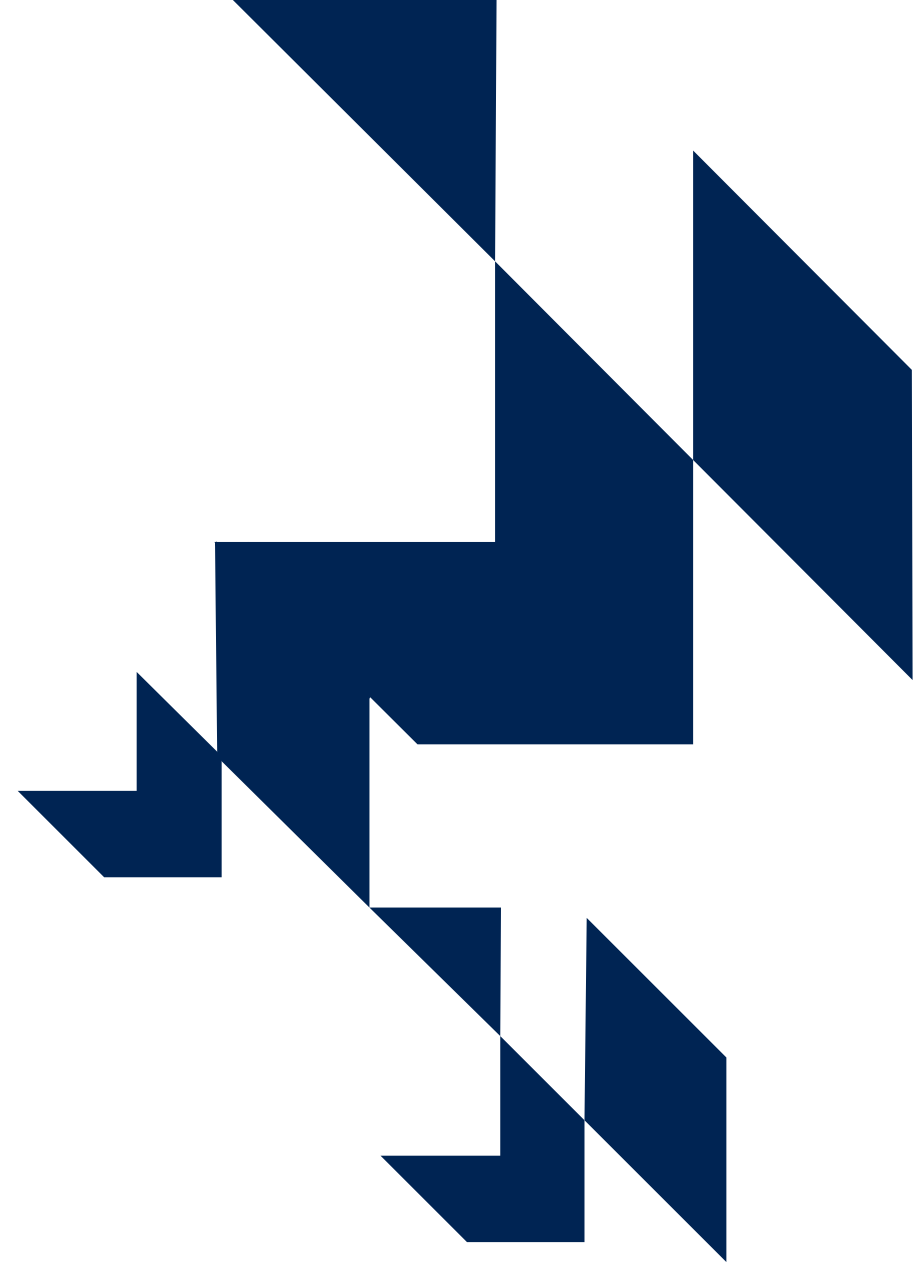
Webinar: Prevent risk assessments

28 January 2020

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Statutory duty guidance

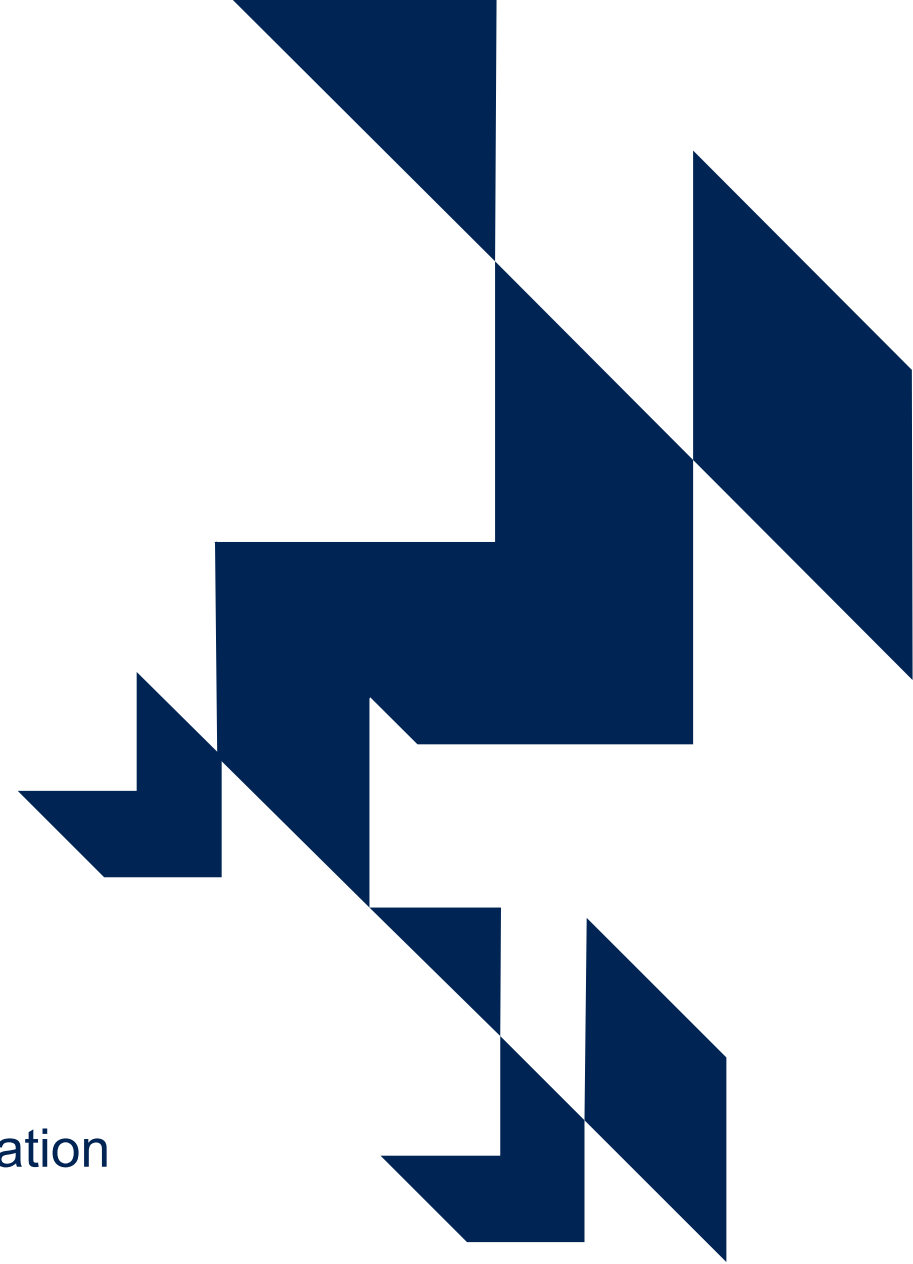
- Prevent duty: Framework for monitoring in higher education in England 2018-19 onwards
- Prevent duty guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales – updated 10 April 2019
- Revised Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales – updated 10 April 2019



Webinar: Prevent risk assessments

Issues:

- Lacked clear line of sight between risk assessment and the action plan
- Risks identified were not proportionate or relevant to the provider
- No clear plan for regular review
- The provider had not considered risks specific to its own situation
- Adopting rather than adapting risk assessment templates



What should a Prevent risk assessment look like?

There is no prescriptive format or style for a Prevent risk assessment or action plan and institutions have the flexibility to utilise existing corporate models or devise one to suit their own needs.

It is acceptable and often useful to combine the Prevent risk assessment with the action plan.

However ...

- It should reflect the specifics of your institution and not obviously be a generic document
- It should clearly identify when it was last updated, reviewed, authorship and importantly executive oversight and ownership
- It should demonstrate how risks have been identified and assessed

What areas should your Prevent risk assessment cover?

The Prevent Statutory Guidance is a good starting point for this and outlines a number of areas that should be given consideration.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-higher-education-institutions-in-england-and-wales>

The Statutory Guidance is not intended to be prescriptive in its application and institutions are urged to consider it in a manner that is proportionate to risk.

- Risk assessment
- Prevent action plan
- Partnership
- Staff training
- Welfare and pastoral care
- Safety online
- Speakers and events

What areas should your Prevent risk assessment cover?

Other areas for consideration might include:

- **Campus security** – this might be aligned with wider Contest considerations
- **Student engagement and consultation** – evidence how the institution consults students on implementation and assesses and manages the potential impact of this
- **Freedom of speech** – broader than speakers and events requirements, this might outline how the institution is meeting or fulfilling its freedom of speech responsibilities
- **Work based and distance learners** – these arrangements pose some specific challenges. The Department for Education has published specific guidance for organisations <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/work-based-learners-and-the-prevent-statutory-duty> (remember apprenticeships up to Level 5 are assessed by Ofsted)

Risk assessment information sources

- Risk assessments must be based on a broad range of information and intelligence to ensure all potential risks are identified and understood in the context of your institution and its community.
- This might include consideration of differing risks on different campuses/sites and risks to specific communities, groups or events.
- Remember the Prevent Statutory Guidance states that your risk assessment is expected to:
‘assess where and how students might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism ... campus and student welfare, including equality and diversity and the safety and welfare of students and staff ... assess the physical management of the university estate’ (Prevent Statutory Guidance for Higher Education)

Risk assessment and action planning model



Sources of information and intelligence

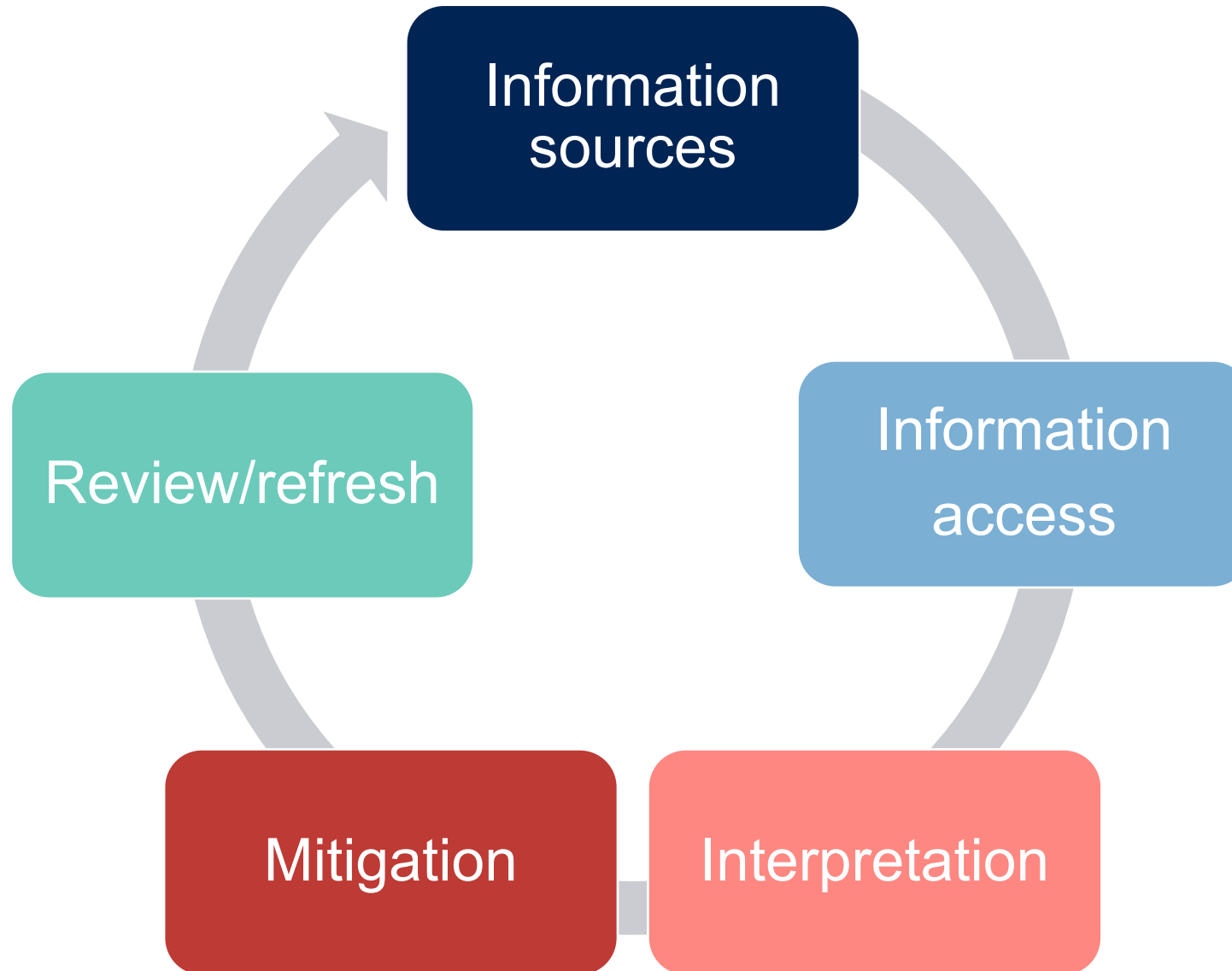
High level sources

- Police Counter-Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLP)
- Published partnership intelligence reports
- OfS Prevent review feedback and sector good practice sharing
- Other sector intelligence

Local sources

- Local authority Prevent plans
- Local policing intelligence
- Prevent Coordinators
- Channel trends
- Extremist speakers/groups activity
- Anti-Prevent/CT lobbying/activism
- TACT
convictions/releases/travellers/returnees

Risk assessment cycle



Components of a good risk assessment/action plan

1. **Clear identification of risk area and specific hazards** - these may be national/local, geographic, institution or sector specific
2. **Rank the severity and likelihood of risks** - usually based on a 1–5 scale
3. **Clear rating of risks** - severity x likelihood = assessment of risk. High/medium/low categories allows prioritisation actions
4. **Identification of existing mitigations should identify future actions and areas of weakness** - required mitigation will establish new or ongoing actions for action plan
5. **Clearly established (and communicated) ownership and timelines for completion/review of actions** - link to organisational business processes, CTLP updates and OfS timelines

Process and ownership

- It is good practice to establish a cycle of review and refresh for risk assessments and action plans.
- Whilst no formal timeline for this exists it is suggested that reviews should be linked to publishing of police CTLPs and associated briefings
- Operational responsibility and executive ownership should be clearly defined
- Published (and adhered to) reporting timetables should be established to allow accountability and transparency
- Internal forums (existing or Prevent specific) to manage oversight and reporting and to provide transparency
- Consultation amongst students, staff, external stakeholders and communities should be a key strand of annual process
- OfS submission timelines

Good practice identification and sharing

Local

- Regional Prevent forums – theme based discussions and problem solving
- Prevent partnership steering groups

National

- OfS good practice sharing
- ‘What works’ workshops
- Data analysis
- Sector events and conferences

Further useful information

Resources

The government's Prevent duty guidance

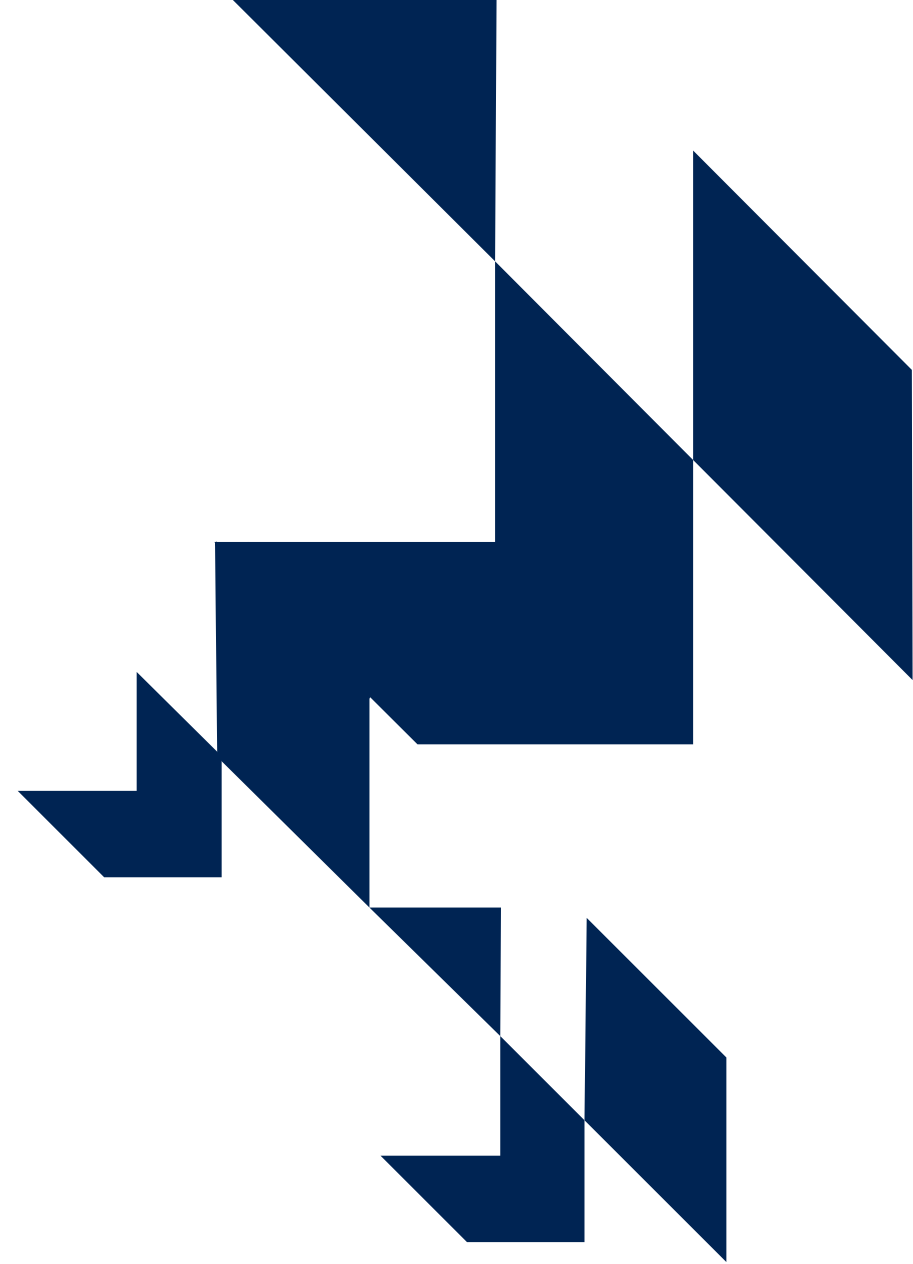
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

OfS Prevent duty guidance

www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/counter-terrorism-the-prevent-duty/

Safe Campus Communities

<https://www.safecampuscommunities.ac.uk/prevent>



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Thank you for listening.

If you have any further questions, please contact us by emailing our Prevent inbox at

Prevent@officeforstudents.org.uk.