

16 July 2025

Dear

Changes to the data categories in the 2025-26 Prevent ADR

We are writing to confirm that we will introduce our proposed changes to the radicalisation categories in the Prevent accountability and data return (ADR) for the submission due in December 2026, **which covers the reporting period 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026.**

Please find further information on the changes below.

Changes to the radicalisation categories

Thank you for all your feedback on our proposed changes. We have considered your views on the value that further disaggregating these categories could bring to understanding, changing and emerging Prevent-related risks in the higher education sector.

The changes will help align our radicalisation categories with those outlined by the Home Office in its annual statistical release of referral reports. This will increase the number of radicalisation categories for Prevent-related cases in the welfare dataset from four to six. The Home Office statistical releases recognise nine categories in total. However, three categories are applied retrospectively by Prevent case officers, after further information has been sought.

The 'Mixed, unstable and unclear' (MUU) categories will be disaggregated into three potential radicalisation concerns: 'Incel', 'School massacre' and 'Conflicted'.

The six reporting categories for the welfare dataset in the ADR for December 2026 will be:

- Islamist
- Extreme right-wing
- Incel (new)

- School massacre (new)
- Conflicted (new)
- Other radicalisation.

You can find the definition for each category on the Home Office's website, and in the annex attached to this letter.

Most cases you report in the welfare dataset are at an early stage and not all will escalate further than yourselves as the Prevent lead. We believe your own category assignments based on the available information at the time, together with further information in the accompanying text box, are valuable insights into the types of concerns you are dealing with.

Other feedback

Some of you told us that an additional 'Other' category might be helpful for more nuanced cases which would be difficult to assign. We considered adding an additional category to accommodate nuanced cases. However, we felt that the new categories continue to offer sufficient flexibility for these, particularly with the 'Conflicted' and 'Other' categories' definitions that include unclear ideologies as well as other types of radicalisation respectively.

We will publish full guidance prior to the December 2026 ADR deadline.

We are not planning any changes for the ADR due in December 2025. We will send details about how to submit this return in the autumn.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at prevent@officeforstudents.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Arlene Robinson
Head of Prevent

Annex A: Definitions of types of concern categories as defined by the Home Office

Term: 'Extreme right-wing'

Definition: This category reflects those who are vulnerable to being drawn into extreme-right wing Terrorism. 'Extreme right-wing' is an umbrella term encompassing all ideologies and narratives that seek to undermine fundamental values (democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, tolerance) including cultural nationalism, white nationalism and white supremacism. These themselves span a range of extreme beliefs such as antisemitism, anti-Islam, neo-Nazi, ethno-nationalism or anti-establishment.

Term: 'Islamist'

Definition: This category reflects those who are vulnerable to being drawn into Islamist terrorism. Islamist terrorism is defined as acts of terrorism perpetrated or inspired by politico-religiously motivated groups or individuals who support and use violence as means to establish their interpretation of an Islamic society. In the UK context, the Islamist terrorist threat comes overwhelmingly from Salafi-Jihadi movements, which are inherently violent. Islamism describes a spectrum of movements that hold a variety of views on the use of violence; some are conditional in their view on the use of violence and others are explicit in their rejection of it.

Term: 'Incel'

Definition: This category reflects those who are vulnerable due to engagement with Incel culture. Incel is an abbreviation of the term 'involuntary celibate' and is a culture that encompasses misogynistic and violent views towards women as a result of feeling rejected by women.

Term: 'School massacre'

Definition: This category reflects those who are vulnerable due to being fixated with school massacre or extreme mass violence without targeting a particular group.

Term: 'Conflicted'

Definition: This category reflects instances where the type of concern presented involves a combination of elements from multiple ideologies (mixed), shifts between different ideologies (unstable), or where the individual does not present a coherent ideology yet may still be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism (unclear).

Term: 'Other'

Definition: This category includes types of concerns that are not covered by the types of radicalisation concerns defined above:

- left-wing extremism
- Northern Ireland-related extremism
- animal-rights extremism
- environmental extremism
- international separatist-related extremism
- international (other) extremism.