



Department  
for Education

November 2019

# FE/HE Prevent News: London

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Your monthly Prevent update for Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) providers in London.



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## Dear Further Education and Higher Education providers,

A lot has happened in just a few weeks since my last digest - we have an election date (and therefore purdah is just round the corner), al-Baghdadi's death and a changing of terrorism threat level. I'll cover some of these big news items within the digest.

I am having an increasing number of conversations about training content and material. The Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) is still central to the training I deliver and share, but it's absolutely vital that your versions are localised to the risk, type of provider, learners and local area. In order to make my training material as useful as possible to the HE/FE sector, I

have a request: **Please share with me examples of Prevent safeguarding cases from your institution or ones that you have been involved with.** I would also appreciate case studies of learners/staff that perhaps have gone on to do something criminally involved with terrorism. I ask as I would like to incorporate more HE/FE examples into my training. They will of course be anonymised.

Finally, the [Prevent Independent Review](#) call for evidence will remain open until 9 December 2019. It's very important that the HE/FE sector is well represented. Please do feed into it.

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## **Sector specific information**

### **Further education**

I have five more spots for the WRAP train-the-trainer for ILPs on the afternoon of Wednesday 4 December at the Department for Education. If you or a colleague for an ILP and would like to attend then please do let me know.

I am also hosting a session for FE Colleges and Sixth Forms in AM on Thursday 5 December at a college in North London. 30+ have confirmed attendance, but if you

### **Higher education**

The London HE Network took place on 31 October at London City University. It was very well attended and we had the last minute addition of Lord Carlile, the independent reviewer on Prevent, as well as a session from me on training material. Thanks to all that attended and the minutes/presentations will be shared in due course.

(Unfortunately, I will only be able to share the training presentation with those that were present, but Lord

would also like to attend, get in touch.

A reminder of the Prevent-related resources the Education & Training Foundation have available are:

- [ETFlearners](#) - for the Side by Side modules
- Foundation online Learning: [Prevent awareness raising modules](#)
- [Prevent for FE and training website](#) ([www.preventforfeandtraining.org.uk](http://www.preventforfeandtraining.org.uk)) which hosts policies, procedures and teaching materials including:
  - a set of materials developed with [NATSPEC for learners with autism - see SEND concertina](#)
  - resources developed for adults, including a [video and resource pack - see the materials designed for adults concertina](#)
  - [The Apprenticeship area of the Prevent for FE and training website](#)

Carlile's presentation will be shared to all HE providers).

I hope to be running a few WRAP train-the-trainer sessions in January for the HE sector. If you would like to be put on the waiting list, then do get in contact.

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## UK terrorism threat changed to 'SUBSTANTIAL'

On Monday 4 November, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) changed the UK national terrorism threat level from SEVERE to SUBSTANTIAL. This means that a terrorist attack is likely. The last time the threat level was at SUSTANTIAL was August 2014.

Despite the lowering of the threat level, terrorism remains one of the most direct and immediate risks to our National Security. SUBSTANTIAL continues to indicate a high level of threat; and an attack might well occur without further warning. The public should remain vigilant and report any concerns to the Police.

The decision to change the UK terrorism threat level is taken by JTAC independently of

Ministers. JTAC keep the threat under constant review and conduct a full formal assessment of the terrorism threat level every six months. This is a systematic, comprehensive and rigorous process, based on the very latest intelligence and analysis of internal and external factors which drive the threat.

The change in threat level should not significantly alter your own providers' risk assessments.

The link to the Written Ministerial Statement can be found [here](#).

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## UK Special Envoy for Countering Violent Extremism appointed

On Tuesday 5 November, the Home Secretary has appointed John Woodcock MP as the UK Special Envoy for Countering Violent Extremism. The link to the news story can be found [here](#).

The new role will focus on improving the UK's response to violent extremism, with a particular focus on tackling far right violent extremism, taking lessons from global best practice.

John Woodcock is a former member of the Defence Select Committee and the Home Affairs Select Committee and has experience working on counter-terrorism legislation.

### Home Secretary, Priti Patel, said:

*“Our counter-terrorism strategy is always evolving to match the changing threat and this important new role will help to inform this work. As well as informing the UK's work tackling terrorism, it will also ensure we share these lessons with our global partners. John Woodcock will bring a range of skills and experience to the role and I am delighted he has accepted this position.”*

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## Death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

On Sunday 27 October, US President Donald Trump announced that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of Daesh, had been killed following a US operation in Syria's north-western Idlib province. President Trump delivered a press conference at which he confirmed that the Daesh leader had been killed in a US raid after detonating a suicide vest, that no US personnel had been killed, and that *“a large number of Baghdadi's fighters and companions were killed with him.”*

The death of al-Baghdadi is another example of the continued decline and fall of Daesh - a group he oversaw undertake brutal murder, torture, slavery and terrorising of communities.

Despite this significant death, the poisonous ideology that al-Baghdadi and his followers peddled still remains and so one should not think they are no longer a threat. Daesh-inspired attacks still

remain one of the most significant threats in terms of radicalisation and terrorism and so should still be considered in provider risk assessments.

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## Survey finds that most voters believe violence against MPs 'is price worth paying' over Brexit

An [academic poll](#) conducted jointly by Cardiff University and the University of Edinburgh has found that a majority of voters across England, Scotland, and Wales believe that the possibility of some level of violence against MPs is a “price worth paying” in order to achieve their desired outcome in terms of Brexit.

The poll asked respondents what they would be prepared to see happen in order to either leave or remain in the European Union. It found that both a majority of ‘leave’ and ‘remain’ voters felt that the risk of violence was worth it, however the question didn’t imply whether the respondent would be conducting this violence themselves. Most people also thought that violent protests, along with violence towards MPs, were likely to occur if Brexit happens.

This academic piece demonstrates how Brexit remains a highly divisive and volatile topic. If you have concerns about individuals being drawn to violence around this topic, then please get in contact or follow your Prevent safeguarding processes.

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## For FE: UKSIC Filter Tool

The Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) in the Metropolitan Police holds a ‘filter list’ that contains URL links to terrorist content, which can be provided to colleges and other organisations to enable them to block access to terrorist content on the ‘filter list’.

The CTIRU have been looking at ways to increase the coverage of the ‘filter list’, especially in educational institutions. Filtering is an important part of preventing vulnerable people from accessing illegal content online and, as a government, we would like to ensure that we are doing our utmost in protecting those most vulnerable.

The UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has worked with the Home Office to create a tool to help educational institutions to test whether they are covered by the CTIRU ‘filter list’, if accessed from their premises. The tool will also check whether educational institutions are covered by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) URL list, which contains links to online child sexual exploitation content. If they are not covered, the tool will signpost the user to further information about filtering on the UKSIC website, including how to ensure they are covered by both lists and assist them in ensuring they have appropriate filters in place.

This tool, which can be accessed through the UKSIC website at <http://testfiltering.com/>, will benefit colleges in ensuring they have safeguards such as the CTIRU ‘filter list’ and IWF URL list

in place and that these filter lists are embedded in their filtering solutions. **Please note that the filter list is available widely and not limited to schools, however this tool created by UKSIC is aimed at schools and colleges only.**

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## For awareness: "It's Okay to be White" - potential targeting of education institutions

For awareness: [4Chan](#) conducted a re-run of their "It's Okay to be White" ("IOTBW") poster campaign, which encouraged supporters to put up the their posters on 31 October. It was suggested that university campuses were to be targeted with the objective of '[red-pilling](#)' students, and that Halloween will give supporters justification to obscure their identity when posting. As the site openly referenced the campaign online I wanted to highlight it to colleagues.

If you were aware of any "IOTBW" postering or if you have any issues related to this, then please do get in contact.

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## FE/HE Regional Prevent Officer for London vacancy

I am currently recruiting for a FE/HE Regional Prevent Officer to support Prevent delivery amongst the FE and HE providers in London. For further information about the role, please see [here](#). Closing date is 15 November.

You're a welcome to share this amongst colleagues and friends. Happy to have a chat with anyone interested in the position.

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