

PREVENT DUTY – REDUCING PERMISSIVE ENVIRONMENTS

VENUE HIRE AND SPEAKERS DUE DILIGENCE [External]



Issued: June 2026 (to be updated in June 2027 or if national terror threat level changes)

Prevent is part of the government counter-terrorism strategy, it is designed to tackle the problem of terrorism at its roots, preventing people from supporting terrorism or becoming involved in terrorism themselves.

- There are individuals and groups that advocate or promote extreme views including: hatred, divisions, and the use of violence. The national Prevent Duty places a mandatory requirement that Cheshire West and Chester Council to ensure that publicly owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views. These speakers may also have the potential to create community tension, media attention, and damage the reputation of the Council. There are many varied ideologies that motivate people and groups and Cheshire West and Chester Council has to take care to find a balance that takes account of the right to free speech, human rights, and equality for example the Human Rights Act 1998: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1/part/I/chapter/9>
- The current threat to the UK from terrorism is **SEVERE** meaning an attack is highly likely. This is the fourth level of 5 levels set out by national security services which range from low (level 1) to critical (level 5) ([Threat Levels | MI5 - The Security Service](#)).

Responding to the threat

The following information will provide you with advice and guidance on allowing premises to be used for external purposes/ speakers and sets out how we can effectively apply additional rules and conditions to mitigate / minimise risks.

To tackle the ideological causes of terrorism, Prevent focuses on reducing the influence of radicalisers on susceptible audiences, as well as reducing the availability of, and access to, terrorist content.

- The UK has been experiencing a gradual increase in terrorist threats for some time. This has been driven by a rise in both Islamist and Extreme Right-Wing terrorist threat from individuals and small groups in the UK. Whilst Islamist Terrorism remains the primary threat to the UK, Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism (ERWT) has been on a steadily rising trajectory.

- Islamist terrorists are generally driven by an extreme interpretation of Islam or perceived grievances against ‘the West’, particularly those propagated by terrorist groups such as Daesh (also referred to as ISIL, ISIS or the Islamic State) or al-Qaeda. Much of the volume of the threat is from individuals who have self-radicalised, seeking to carry out attacks using unsophisticated or low-sophistication methodologies. Generally, individuals will decide themselves to conduct an attack, rather than the attack being directed or controlled by a terrorist group. This can make it harder to identify terrorist activity.

There also remains an enduring threat from overseas terrorist groups which seek to inspire, support or enable attacks and which retain an intent to conduct sophisticated attacks.

- The extreme right wing terrorism landscape has evolved away from structured groups towards a more diffuse threat where individuals form loose networks, often online. The ideologies and grievance narratives are varied, wide-ranging and often overlapping. They can encompass elements of cultural nationalism, white nationalism, and white supremacy and are often fuelled by conspiracy theories.

Extreme right-wing influencers operating globally online seek to fuel grievances and amplify conspiracy theories. Much of the volume of the threat is from self-radicalised terrorists seeking to conduct low-sophistication attacks. Generally, individuals will decide themselves to conduct an attack, rather than the attack being directed by a terrorist group. This can make it harder to identify terrorist activity.

- Individuals and groups may subscribe to ideological trends and ideas from more than one category. Established terrorist narratives exhibit common themes such as antisemitism, misogyny (Incels), anti-establishment, anti-LGBT grievances and religious or ethnic superiority.
- More information can be found on The Prevent Toolkit along with Protect UK who provide business and public with counter terrorism support and guidance to effectively protect and prepare. Staff involved in venue hire should familiarise themselves with the ProtectUK App.

- [Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614217/prevent-duty-guidance-guidance-for-specified-authorities-in-england-and-wales.pdf)
- [ProtectUK | Home](#)

Roles, responsibilities, and resources

This assessment will help you to consider the potential for any risks that need to be managed when taking venue bookings for events and provides a starting point to identify and address concerns where you are unsure about an organisation, group, or individuals.

Use the responsible booking template below to help you to assess the risk and consider the options. The decision to accept a room booking or support an activity and whether to take further action is your teams / organisations responsibility.

This guidance document should be used alongside your existing policies and procedures for booking events and speakers. Make sure that you store any information in line with your organisation's records management policy and data protection arrangements.

Where an event/ activity is to go ahead, consider making additional conditions to make sure that it is managed properly and make it clear that breaching these conditions could lead to cancellation. Examples of such mitigations could include

- Making an event/activity open to the public.
- Mandatory attendance of persons who can provide an alternative voice to ensure fair debate.
- Giving guidelines regarding language or topics that will not be tolerated.
- Insisting on an independent chairperson or observer.
- Restricting the sale of alcohol or other products.
- Asking speakers to provide copies of presentations in advance and agree not to deviate from this.
- Restricting what banners, placards, leaflets, electronic materials and so on are allowed at the event/ activities.
- Insisting that an event is recorded in case of future complaint.

Further considerations

- **Health and safety considerations:** Some events can attract significant attendance with the potential for disorder outside their premises and health and safety implications for their staff. Cheshire West and Chester Council can help your organisation to assess the risk and advise private venues accordingly. Further event guidance: <https://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/leisure-parks-and-events/outdoor-events/help-with-planning-your-event>
- **Regulations:** A range of regulations are relevant to events (for example licensing, environmental health, noise pollution) and discussion should be had to look at whether an event conforms to the relevant regulations.
- **Reputation:** Venue owners may want to be made aware if there are concerns about a radicalising influencer using a private venue for an event in view of the potential reputational impact on the venue.
- **Charities:** Trustees have specific duties under charity law which are relevant to the protection of their institutions. The Charity Commission has a variety of guidance available for trustees, including Chapter 5 of the [Compliance Toolkit 'Protecting Charities from abuse for extremist purposes'](#). Guidance is available from Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA) – <https://cwva.org.uk>

Contact details

Cheshire West and Chester Local Safeguarding Adults Board LSAB@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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This information should be collected at the point of enquiry from organisations or individuals requesting to book your venue.

The decisions regarding whether to accept a booking and take any further action is your responsibility. In order to allow fair and transparent decision making, basic information should be obtained and considered when booking events.

Name of event					
Date of event:		Time of event:		Is this a repeat booking?	YES/NO
Name and contact details for person requesting the booking (inc. org. / group / charity they represent):					
Event type e.g. engagement, conference, fundraiser, consultation, meeting:		Approximate number of people attending			
How is attendance at the event being arranged? (Tick relevant box)	Invite only <input type="checkbox"/>	Open invite however attendees will need to book onto the event <input type="checkbox"/>	Open invite- Open to members of the public <input type="checkbox"/>		
How is the event being advertised? (word of mouth, social media, flyers, website etc):		Will the media be present? YES/NO	Is the event going to be segregated? YES/NO		
Name and contact details of main speaker (inc organisation / group / charity they represent):					

Name and contact details of all other speakers (inc organisation / group / charity they represent):	
Please provide the contact details for a venue you have held an event at previously (<i>Advise that you may contact</i>)	Name: Tel number/ Email:

For each of the questions record your findings and using the impact assessment rating below assign a number based on the level of risk and/or likelihood.

Consideration	Findings / Further Action	Impact Assessment 1: No concern/ no risk 2: Low likelihood/ impact of risk 3: medium risk/medium likelihood 4: high risk/high likelihood (Score and explanation of scoring decision)
<p>1. Ensure the event is not being organised by or on behalf of a proscribed organisation. This is a list of banned organisations under UK law.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2</p>	<p>If the organisation is listed as a proscribed organisation you should not proceed with the booking. Do not agree to the event as it is likely to breach the law.</p> <p>Make contact, during office hours, to Merseyside Police who have a dedicated Prevent team phone 0151777506 or email prevent@merseyside.police.uk</p>	
<p>2. If concerns are raised but the organisation is not proscribed, consider conducting an open-source</p>	<p>Log findings of your internet search below (including date of search)</p>	

internet search to research the organisation, topics, or speakers to inform your decision-making process. To ensure that your search is proportionate make sure that you consider all the information and its credibility.	If uncertain, make contact, during office hours, to Merseyside Police who have a dedicated Prevent team phone 0151777506 or email prevent@merseyside.police.uk	
3. If a charity is booking the event, you can check if it is registered on the Charity Commission website https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission	YES / NO	
4. Are there concerns that this event could contradict the principles of LET'S Do It!, breach UK law, the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Equality Act 2010?	YES / NO Further action / detail:	
5. In your opinion is there a chance this event could cause community tension or impact on community cohesion / relations?	YES / NO Further action / detail: If uncertain, contact Cheshire Police on 101	
6. Is there a chance that this event could attract counter protest groups?	YES / NO Further action / detail:	
7. Is there a risk to the facilities' and therefore Council's reputation?	YES / NO Further action / detail:	
TOTAL NUMBER (add up the numbers circled for each question)		
OVERALL RAG ASSESSMENT See below based on total due diligence score		

SECURITY THREAT CHECK

When completing this document there is a duty to ensure Prevent activity is guided by the following Security Threat Check. Please confirm each of the following statements has been given due regard to and any specific comments against these based on the outcome of the risk scoring

Any Prevent related action should be mindful of the UK's current terrorism threat level

Any Prevent related action should be proportionate against the current national terrorism threat level and local insight

Any Prevent related action should be likely to reduce the threat of terrorism or terrorist-adjacent narratives.

Additional comments (including, where applicable any mitigating circumstances that may impact the level of risk)

RAG Assessment

<p>Total: Below 8</p> <p>Green – Low or no risk</p>	<p>Total: 9 – 14</p> <p>Amber – Medium Risk</p>	<p>Total: 15 – 21</p> <p>Red – High Risk</p>
<p>Proceed with your booking using your existing policies and procedures for booking events and speakers.</p> <p>If anything changes before the date of the event, you may wish to review the booking and complete a further RAG assessment</p>	<p>Make contact with Cheshire Police on 101 for liaison with the neighbourhood policing team or during office hours Merseyside Police have a dedicated Prevent team phone 0151777506 or email: prevent@merseyside.police.uk This is advised before you confirm this event booking.</p> <p>If you decide to go ahead and confirm the booking for the event to be delivered from your venue, please ensure that you have the right event management arrangements in place to react, manage and log any situations that could lead to reports of breaches in the Human Rights 1998 and Equality Act 2010; including the potential for disorder.</p> <p>If anything changes before the date of the event, you may wish to review the booking and complete a further RAG assessment.</p>	<p>Make contact with Cheshire Police on 101 or during office hours Merseyside Police have a dedicated Prevent team phone 0151777506 or email prevent@merseyside.police.uk</p> <p>Do not confirm the event booking</p> <p>If anything changes before the date of the event, you may wish to review the booking and complete a further RAG assessment.</p>