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Guidance

Independent review of Prevent: terms of reference

Updated 20 December 2019

This guidance was withdrawn on 26 January 2021

This terms of reference is now out of date.

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Lord Carlile is no longer the Independent Reviewer of Prevent. The future of the review will be considered in due course.

Purpose

The purpose of the independent review, as set out in the legislation, is to review the government strategy for supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Objectives

The review will consider the present delivery of Prevent and recommendations for the future, rather than past delivery of Prevent.

The review in particular will consider the following:

- is Prevent achieving its objectives? These are to:
 - tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism
 - safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support
 - enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate
- how effectively is Prevent being delivered at both the local and national levels?
- how effectively does Prevent interact with other safeguarding and vulnerability strategies, and what are the critical dependencies and common threads?
- how effective is the Statutory Prevent Duty, and how effectively is it being implemented?
- how could Prevent be improved to respond to justified criticisms and complaints?
- what should the government consider in the development of Prevent over the next 5 years, as the threat evolves, in order to best engage with and support people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism?

Outputs

The Reviewer should provide a report which seeks to address the issues listed above. The report should provide recommendations on improvements to Prevent. Any recommendations should be evidence-based and proportionate, with consideration given to their implementation.

Scope

The review should consider Prevent as set out in CONTEST (counter-terrorism strategy), most recently revised in June 2018, and not cover the delivery of other strategies, such as the other 3Ps (pursue, protect, prepare) of CONTEST. The review will apply to England, Scotland and Wales with consultation with the devolved administrations as appropriate. The review will be focused on specified authorities (by legislation) but may include non-specified authorities, such as the military and immigration, by consent

and if relevant. The review will consider efforts to reduce the risk from terrorism within the UK rather than Prevent activity done to reduce the risk to UK interests abroad. This is a forward-looking review and, as such, will not consider past decisions.

Timing

The report, including any recommendations of the review, must be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by end June 2020 in time for the Secretary of State to respond to each recommendation and lay the review report and government response before both Houses to meet the statutory deadline of 12 August 2020.

Governance and methodology

The Independent Reviewer will be appointed by, and accountable to, the Secretary of State for the Home Department for delivery of the review. Details of the governance which achieves this accountability and the methodology for the review - including evidence gathering, consultation with central government, devolved administrations and local partners, and engagement with local communities - will be agreed between the Reviewer and the Secretary of State by end of September 2019. This will be set out in a ways of working document. A secretariat of Home Office staff will support the Independent Reviewer.

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