



Jacob Smith
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19 May 2026

FOI:2026/02155

Dear Jacob,

Thank you for your e-mail of 10 February 2026, in which you request information about the names of any ideologies or concerns for which we have specific guidance or policies outside of the Prevent Duty Guidance.

You specifically ask:

We request that you disclose:

1. The names of any 'ideologies' or 'concerns' for which you have specific guidance or policies outside of the 'Prevent duty guidance' document hyperlinked in your prior response;
2. Any such guidance or policies on specific 'ideologies' or 'concerns' covered by part (1) of this request; and
3. Any policy or guidance documents which explain the meaning of 'Northern Ireland Related – Dissident Republican Extremism' and 'Northern Ireland Related – Unionist/Loyalist Extremism'.

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In response to **question 1**, the names of referral categories can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/user-guide-to-individuals-referred-to-and-supported-through-the-prevent-programme-england-and-wales>. For clarity, the Prevent Case Management Tracker (PCMT) categories are not policy or guidance; they are used solely to explain how referrals are categorised.

In relation to **questions 1 and 2**, outside of the Prevent Duty Guidance and training we have shared the following guidance relating to 'Incel' concerns:

- It is the case that many extremist ideologies across the spectrum feature misogynistic narratives. There has also been an increase in violent misogynistic narratives online and the development of newer male supremacist movements which have misogyny at the heart of their belief systems. However, an adherence to

misogynistic ideas or misogynistic behaviours in isolation, although concerning, is not something that warrants a referral to Prevent.

- A referral to Prevent would only be appropriate if there are broader indications that radicalisation is occurring, or an individual is beginning to support terrorist groups or activities.
- Incels are more of a subculture than a coherent group or organisation, and criminal acts from those who identify as incel are often not intended to progress an ideology, meaning they primarily sit in the crime space. It is possible that some incels may cross the terrorism threshold if they use violence, threaten people or encourage action to advance their view of how society should be.
- Incels are considered from a counter-terrorism perspective on a case-by-case basis and will continue to be monitored as an emerging threat. Although there have been no incel-motivated terrorist attacks in the UK, there have been examples of incel cases in the broader counter-terrorism space.
- Prevent aims to protect people from radicalisation and provides bespoke support to people regardless of ideology, which can include individuals who have shown an interest in incel narratives.
- Incel ideologies make up a tiny fraction of Prevent referrals (1.2% of all referrals; 2.8% of Channel cases in the year ending March 2022). People who are referred to Prevent for incel-related concerns will receive tailored support just as they would for any other ideological issue

Additionally, guidance was issued in March 2025 on the then-interim policy changes to referrals categorised as ‘fascination with extreme violence or mass casualty attacks’. This work was jointly developed and agreed by the Home Office and CTPHQ. The following guidance was issued and can be found at Annex C, D and E respectively:

- Deputy Director letter detailing the CTP interim policy change
- Channel exit pathways addendum
- PCMT categories (issued May 2024)

The Key Principles of Prevent guidance was published on 23rd February 2026 and can be found here [Key principles of Prevent \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#). As part of this, a Frequently Asked Questions document was shared to provide additional clarity specific to ‘fascination with extreme violence and mass casualty attacks’. This document can be found at Annex E.

In relation to **question 3**, we can confirm that we do not hold any policy or guidance documents which explain the meaning of ‘Northern Ireland Related – Dissident Republican Extremism’ or ‘Northern Ireland Related – Unionist/Loyalist Extremism’.

For completeness, we can confirm that Prevent awareness training is provided through both e-learning and face-to-face delivery.

The Prevent Awareness e-learning course is publicly available and can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-training>.

The e-learning course reflects the same broad ideology categories referenced in the Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023), which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>.

The e-learning course does not contain additional or separate ideology categories or policy guidance beyond those set out in that guidance. You may also wish to note that face-to-face Prevent awareness training materials have been disclosed previously in response to

an earlier Freedom of Information request. These materials do not constitute policy or statutory guidance and do not introduce additional ideology categories beyond those referenced in the Prevent duty guidance.

FOI 2025/03605, concerning extremist ideology face-to-face training materials, is currently subject to an ICO complaint (IC-451306-T5P6). It would therefore not be appropriate to comment further on the content of those materials at this time.

In relation to **questions 1 and 2**, I can confirm that the Home Office holds further information that you have requested. However, after careful consideration we have decided that the information is exempt from disclosure. Specifically, we are applying section 24(1) (national security) to part of your request.

Section 24(1) of the Act is a qualified exemption and requires consideration of the public interest test. We have concluded the public interest lies in favour of withholding the information. The arguments we considered, both for and against disclosure, are set out in Annex B.

The UK's counterterrorism strategy CONTEST, including Prevent, addresses all forms of terrorism that affect the UK and our interests overseas, with the exception of Northern Ireland related terrorism in Northern Ireland, which is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The Home Secretary is responsible for the response to Northern Ireland related terrorism in Great Britain.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to FOIRequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference **FOI2026/02155**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information
Home Office

Annex A: Original Request

Dear FOIA Requests team,

Please treat this letter as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). This request follows your response to another freedom-of-information request, FOI 2025/15696, dated 12 December 2025. In this response, you state that you hold no specific guidance regarding the treatment of 'Northern Ireland related concerns' for the purposes of the Prevent counter-extremism programme. Instead, you state that 'guidance on handling referrals is set out in the Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023) - GOV.UK. This guidance explicitly deals with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK, so includes Northern Ireland related concerns in Great Britain.' (alongside a hyperlink to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>). We request that you disclose:

1. The names of any 'ideologies' or 'concerns' for which you have specific guidance or policies outside of the 'Prevent duty guidance' document hyperlinked in your prior response;
2. Any such guidance or policies on specific 'ideologies' or 'concerns' covered by part (1) of this request; and
3. Any policy or guidance documents which explain the meaning of 'Northern Ireland Related – Dissident Republican Extremism' and 'Northern Ireland Related – Unionist/Loyalist Extremism'.

Annex B: Public Interest Test (PIT) in relation to questions 1 and 2

Some of the exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act), referred to as 'qualified exemptions', are subject to a public interest test (PIT). This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour of withholding the information, or the considerations for and against the requirement to say whether the information requested is held or not. We must carry out a PIT where we are considering using any of the qualified exemptions in response to a request for information.

The 'public interest' is not the same as what interests the public. In carrying out a PIT we consider the greater good or benefit to the community as a whole if the information is released or not. The 'right to know' must be balanced against the need to enable effective government and to serve the best interests of the public.

The FOI Act is 'applicant blind'. This means that we cannot, and do not, ask about the motives of anyone who asks for information. In providing a response to one person, we are expressing a willingness to provide the same response to anyone, including those who might represent a threat to the UK.

Section 24 public interest test

Considerations for disclosure

The Home Office recognises that there is a general public interest in transparency and openness in government. Such openness would increase public understanding and inform public debate. In the context of this request, there is a public interest in disclosing information on specific guidance for 'ideologies' or 'concerns' covered outside of the Prevent Duty Guidance. This would increase the public awareness of the efforts of those supporting activities to prevent terrorism.

Considerations against disclosure

The requested information contains guidance and how a referral based on a specific 'ideology' or 'concern' is assessed. Disclosure of information could be used by extremists or terrorists to avoid referral and detection which negatively impacts the delivery of the Prevent strategy. Safeguarding national security is of paramount importance; Prevent activity is targeted against those forms of terrorism that pose the greatest risk to our national security. Disclosure of this information is not in the public interest, and will undermine efforts to protect national security.

Conclusion

We conclude that the balance of the public interest lies in withholding the information requested.