



Home Office

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FOI: 48090
14 June 2018

Dear Dr Morgan,

Thank you for your e-mail of 12th April 2018. You ask specifically:

1. *Who are the membership of the Prevent Oversight Board (both government and independent members are indicated in 2011 Prevent Strategy and in Baroness Williams' Answer to Lord Carlile's Written Question in the House of Lords in January 2017)?*
2. *What is the mandate of the Prevent Oversight Board?*
3. *Do all sectors subject to Prevent report to the Board- Education, Higher Education, NHS, Police, Parole, Local Communities and Justice?*
4. *In what form do the relevant sectors report to the Board?*
5. *How often do they report?*
6. *What are the follow up actions from reporting?*
7. *What are the Terms of Reference for the Board and are these ever reviewed?*
8. *Has section 30 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ever been used or used following a Prevent Oversight Board recommendation?*
9. *If yes, what was the outcome?*
10. *Does the Board produce any reports (confidential or public)?*

In relation to questions 1), and 10), I can confirm that the Home Office holds the information that you have requested. However, after careful consideration we have decided that the

information is exempt from disclosure under section 24(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. The public interest test for this exemption is set out in the attached Annex.

In relation to question 2), I can confirm that the Home Office holds the information that you have requested. However, after careful consideration we have decided that the information is exempt from disclosure under section 21(2)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act. This provides that information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and can be found at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-09/HL4388/>.

In relation to questions 3), 4), 5), 6) and 7), I can confirm that the Home Office holds the information that you have requested. However, after careful consideration we have decided that the information is exempt from disclosure under section 35(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act. The public interest test for this exemption is set out in the attached Annex.

In relation to question 8) and 9), I can neither confirm nor deny that the Home Office holds the information that you have requested by virtue of section 24(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. The public interest test for this exemption is set out in the attached Annex.

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.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference **48090**. 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 – Public of Interest Test

Section 24(1) National Security

Relates to questions 1), 9), and 10).

Considerations in favour of disclosing the information

There is a general public interest in disclosure and the fact that openness in government increases public trust in, and engagement with, the government. In relation to the aim to increase Prevent's transparency, the release of this information would aid understanding of the oversight of Prevent and allow for improved public debate regarding the delivery of Prevent and the Government's counter terrorism strategy.

Considerations in favour of withholding the information

There are a number of public interest considerations, which favour the non-disclosure of the information covered by this exemption. The most prominent of these factors is the effect release would have on national security. The release of this information would result in the release of sensitive information regarding the delivery of Prevent across the country. This could facilitate the creation of a map to be developed detailing the priorities, delivery, and capabilities of sectors subject to the Prevent Duty. This map could then be exploited by individuals who wish to undermine the delivery of the Government's counter terrorism strategy.

We conclude that the overall balance of the public interest lies in favour of withholding the information in this instance.

Section 24(1) National Security

Relates to question 8).

Considerations in favour of disclosing the information

Confirming or denying if the Home Office holds information concerning the Prevent Oversight Board's use of section 30 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 would enhance the openness of government and help the public understanding of the Prevent Duty 2015 and its implications.

Considerations in favour of withholding the information

Confirming or denying if the Home Office holds information concerning the Prevent Oversight Board's use of section 30 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 could put national security at risk by undermining the Home Office's capabilities used to ensure

the Prevent Duty 2015 is implemented across all departments and administrations subject to the duty and address any potential challenges to this.

We conclude that the overall balance of the public interest lies in favour of neither confirming nor denying the information is held in this instance.

Section 35(1)(a) Information relating to the formulation or development of government policy

Relates to questions 4), 5), 6) and 7).

Considerations in favour of disclosing the information

There is a general public interest in disclosure and the fact that openness in government increases public trust in, and engagement with, the government. In relation to the to the reporting at the Board, the release of this information would aid the public's understanding of the role of sectors and independent members in developing Prevent policy and implementing the Prevent Duty, and the expectations placed on them.

Considerations in favour of withholding the information

There are a number of significant public interest considerations, which favour the non-disclosure of the information covered by this exemption. The most prominent of these factors is the effect release would have on the development of government policy; it is vital to the process that officials and others are able to give advice in a free and frank way to carry out candid assessments of policy proposals in order to ensure that all options are thoroughly discussed before a decision is reached. In addition, the work of sectors is under constant review as assessments of the need and threat evolve – the release of this information would hinder the board's opportunity to thoroughly review their approaches, and could allow for a picture to be developed detailing the delivery and capabilities of sectors subject to the Prevent Duty.

We conclude that the overall balance of the public interest lies in favour of withholding the information in this instance.