Dear

Freedom of Information request reference K/20/074

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 11 February 2020, reference K/20/074.

Your request read:

“The following questions cover the past five academic years, i.e. 2015-16; 2016-17; 2017-18; 2018-19; 2019-20 (to date):

1.a How many students have been referred for specialist support under Prevent?
1.b In how many of these cases did your Prevent lead become involved?
1.c In how many of these cases was external advice sought from multi-agency partners? Please state which partners.
1.d How many of these cases were referred to the Channel programme?
1.e In how many of these cases were students monitored?
1.f How many students have been excluded/suspended/expelled/dismissed due to Prevent concerns?

2.a What is the procedure for monitoring students identified as posing a risk?
2.b What precautionary measures has the university imposed on students identified as posing a risk?

3. Could you break down referrals to your Prevent coordinator by:

3.a ethnicity
3.b Islamic/Islamist extremism
3.c Far right extremism
3.d other extremism (please state)

4. Please provide a copy of the university's Prevent strategy.

5. What level of risk has the Office for Students assessed your institution as posing under Prevent?

6. How many visits did you receive from the Department for Education's regional Prevent coordinators over each of the past five years?”

The University of Leeds holds some of this information, and neither confirms nor denies whether other information relevant to your request is held.

Section 26(1) of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA) imposes a duty on “specified authorities”, including universities and other Further Education (FE) institutions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is called the “Prevent duty”. The University of Leeds has a legal
obligation to comply with the Prevent duty. A general overview of our approach to the Prevent duty can be found on the Secretariat pages of our website.

For ease of understanding, we have responded to your questions in sections below.

Questions one and three (including sub-questions), and question two (b)
The University of Leeds neither confirms nor denies whether any information in respect of these elements of your request is held. We do so under section 24(2) of the FOI Act, which exempts public authorities from the duty to confirm or deny whether information is held in order to safeguard national security.

We consider that to confirm or deny whether any information is held which is relevant to these elements of your request would undermine the University’s ability to comply with its Prevent duty. Individuals inclined to incite, organise or carry out acts of terrorism are likely to be motivated, innovative and persistent in pursuit of any information which has the potential to contribute to their aims. To provide information which sets out whether any referrals have been made, and the details thereof would be likely to reveal information which could be used to circumvent the University’s strategy for ensuring compliance with the Prevent duty. If, for example, agents acting (or intending to act) against the University were to be made aware of the number of referrals made, the way in which those referrals were carried out, and information regarding the individual to which the referral related, they would be able to establish whether their own efforts were being detected. This would enable them to adapt their approach, thus jeopardising the University’s ability to recognise students at risk and take appropriate action.

In order to rely on section 24(2), the University of Leeds must consider the public interest factors for and against neither confirming nor denying whether the information is held. The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is “substantial”. This means that an attack is considered likely. We therefore consider there to be a very strong public interest in ensuring that the University does not disclose any information which could be used by those seeking to carry out an attack/attacks. While we recognise that the public is interested in the Prevent duty, and how it is being met by organisations, we do not consider this to outweigh the clear public interest in mitigating (or, at least, not increasing) the risk of an attack.

We also consider that the public interest in understanding the demographics of individuals who are referred through the Prevent Programme is met via information which is regularly published by the Home Office. On an annual basis, the Home Office publish a report titled “Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme”, which includes information on both the demographic of individuals supported through the Prevent Programme, and on the geographical region and concern type. The most recent report covers the 2018/19 tax year (April 2018 – March 2019). Previous reports can be accessed via the links on the right-hand side of the web page.

Questions two (a), four and five
The University of Leeds holds information in relation to these parts of your request. However, we are withholding the information we hold under section 24(1), in order to
safeguard national security. We consider that the same risks as outlined above apply in this case, and that the public interest is similarly in favour of withholding the information.

In relation to question four, you can access our overall approach to the Prevent duty on the Secretariat pages of our website as outlined above.

**Question six**
The University of Leeds does not keep records on the number of visits made to the University by regional Department for Education (DfE) Prevent Coordinators. This is because members of the University Secretariat regularly (at least quarterly) meet with DfE representatives with responsibility for Prevent as part of various cross-organisational meetings. These meetings provide both DfE and the University of Leeds with opportunity to discuss emerging issues or raise concerns.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle  
Deputy Secretary  
The University of Leeds  
Leeds  
LS2 9JT

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University’s response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website (www.leeds.ac.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

**Chloe Wilkins**  
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat  
University of Leeds