Office of the Independent Prevent Commissioner

Home Secretary

9th July 2026

By email only

Dear Home Secretary,

Thank you for your letter of 30 June setting out the Government's response to Lord Anderson's *Lessons for Prevent* report.

I welcome the Government's decision to accept the report's recommendations and the substantial programme of work already underway to strengthen activity under the Prevent strand of the UK's CONTEST Strategy. I would also like to reiterate my thanks to Lord Anderson as Interim Independent Prevent Commissioner. His report provided an important assessment of the lessons arising from the cases of Ali Harbi Ali and Axel Rudakubana and built upon the Prevent Learning Reviews in setting out constructive recommendations for improving the delivery of Prevent.

As Independent Prevent Commissioner, my role is to provide objective and independent oversight of Prevent and to assess whether the measures being implemented are delivering the outcomes Prevent is designed to deliver. The acceptance of the recommendations in *Lessons for Prevent* is a welcome first step.

The challenge now is implementation. I am encouraged by the breadth of activity outlined in your response, including work to strengthen the handling of individuals who present a risk of serious violence, improvements to quality assurance and oversight functions, efforts to enhance engagement with families, young people and practitioners, and a much-needed emphasis on the better use of data. These are important areas of reform, and I will take a close interest in how they are delivered in practice.

I am keen to understand and monitor the implications of Prevent remaining open to individuals falling within the existing category of "fascination with extreme violence or mass casualty attacks" (Recommendation 2), particularly in relation to the resourcing requirements and challenges across Local Authorities and Counter Terrorism Policing. I am aware that Channel Panels are managing a high volume of casework which are presenting with increasing risk and complexity, so it is important that they are appropriately supported in delivering against their statutory duties.

My office has ongoing constructive engagement with many relevant stakeholders including with Home Office, Counter Terrorism Policing, The Security Service, Local Authorities, Civil Society Organisations, academics and other partners to better understand their thoughts on the recommendations and the implementation of *Lessons for Prevent*. I will continue to engage widely with a diverse set of stakeholders as I cohere own my future priorities as the Independent Prevent Commissioner. As part of that engagement, I would welcome regular updates from your department on the implementation of these recommendations, including the governance arrangements, milestones and measures being used to assess success. This will assist my office in providing evidence-based scrutiny and in identifying any emerging challenges at an early stage.

It is clear from your letter that in response to various Prevent related reviews over recent years, there is a range of activities underway to enhance its effectiveness and connectivity with wider safeguarding structures. It will be important to understand how the various implementation plans, including piloting activities and the establishment of governance structures, will improve the delivery of Prevent in a coherent, transparent and accountable way. I look forward to my office playing its role in providing independent oversight and scrutiny of these arrangements and having visibility of other ongoing reviews, including but not limited to Phase 2 of the Southport Inquiry, work being undertaken by HMICFRS into Safeguarding in Counter Terrorism Policing, work ongoing by the National Audit Office and the independent review into the murder of Sir David Amess.

I welcome the Home Office's willingness to progress discussions regarding the powers available to the Commissioner and believe that statutory powers are essential to carry out the functions of this role effectively. Effective independent scrutiny depends on timely access to information and cooperation across multiple departmental and organisational boundaries. I am keen to advance this dialogue in the coming months.

I look forward to working with you and your officials. My office will engage robustly and constructively with those responsible for Prevent delivery, it will listen to those who have concerns, it will communicate with relevant stakeholders and the wider public with candour, and it will maintain the necessary independence to provide both Parliament and the public with the confidence that Prevent is subject to effective oversight.

Yours sincerely,

SIGNATURE

Tim Jacques
Independent Prevent Commissioner