COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING

[redacted]

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[redacted]

28th January 2026

Dear Security Minister & Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women's Health and Mental Health,

We were delighted to welcome you and your officials to the Counter Terrorism Operations Centre (CTOC) on Wednesday, 17 December 2025 to discuss the persistent challenge of mental health in counter-terrorism (CT) casework and build upon the delivery of actions from the March 2025 National Security Council, chaired by the Prime Minister.

We greatly valued the opportunity to present on the [redacted] evolving threat landscape we face - particularly the sharp increase in those with complex vulnerabilities such as mental ill health, neurodiversity, and minors, within CT casework. We hope that the cases presented demonstrate the stark reality of this threat.

Together, we acknowledged the critical requirement of a whole-system approach in addressing these challenges, with health services in particular playing a vital role in both Pursue and Prevent casework.

In Pursue, we are hoping to see clear benefit from the support of health services to casework meeting CT thresholds such as the proposed Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (FCAMHS) partnership between CCS and Kings College Hospital and, of course, are already seeing strong impact on CT risk management from the CCS itself. However, far closer joint working is required to reduce barriers including working across classifications and mitigating issues surrounding data sharing (confidentiality of medical data).
All parties agreed that a whole-system approach to risk management must include other social care departments such as the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and Department for Education, as well as consideration of the role of the online environment driving trends in the prevalence of mental health and minors within CT casework with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

The objectives of Prevent are to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism, intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation and enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate. A sharp rise in referrals that fall below the terrorism threshold has created unsustainable strain on the system – compounded by the lack of any system to which CT partners can confidently 'hand off' casework, and public safety risk, where it does not meet CT thresholds. We greatly appreciate your acknowledgment of these significant pressures currently facing the Prevent system, and agreed that the health services' ability to identify vulnerabilities early, reducing the risk of radicalisation before CT system

involvement becomes necessary, remains essential. We welcome your commitment to exploring opportunities within the Mental Health Act that could benefit the wider national security framework.

To deliver the whole-system response to vulnerable individuals posing terrorist risk, we hope that the work underway as part of the CONTEST Strategy Priority Deliverable 3, led by the CONTEST Unit, will drive the system to leverage the appropriate mechanisms to address this issue.

In terms of next steps:

- We were pleased to agree that DHSC will identify a dedicated point of contact [redacted] to develop and enable health interventions, and scope the prospect of seconding staff to and from the CT System. Together our teams will work to identify any 'quick wins' that could have an immediate impact on CT risk, alongside longer-term improvements.
- We fully welcome and appreciate your offer to include these challenges within the demand and supply side reviews of the mental health services to explore opportunities for early intervention in incidents where neurodiversity, learning difficulties and mental health are assessed to impact risk.
- [redacted]
- Home Office agreed to convene quarterly forums across relevant stakeholders (including CTP, DHSC, DfE, and DSIT) to socialise information at an appropriate classification, assess the threat and identify points of improvement.
- We agreed that DHSC would look for solutions to resolve the unsustainable funding position of the CCS, which to date has been solely financed by CTP.

[redacted]We remain committed to continued engagement with you and your respective officials on this critical issue, working together to strengthen the system's ability to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities and risks of terrorist harms effectively.

Yours faithfully,

Signature

Vicki Evans
SNC Prevent & Pursue

[redacted]

Copies go to Michelle Haslem, Jonathan Emmett, T2D, Suzy Powell, Clair Baynton, T2D.

THE CABINET OFFICE
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING RECORD
Tuesday 25 March 2025

ACTIONS:

#	Action	Responsible person and/or department	Deadline
1	**T2A**		
2			
3	Confirm to NSS that the following measures (as set out in paragraph 17 of the NSC paper) have been, or are being, implemented in order to reduce the number of individuals susceptible to radicalisation and/or extreme violence: a. equipping schools and universities to tackle hate, through the Educate Against Hate programme and relationships, sex and health education (DfE); b. proactive efforts to build community cohesion, including driving interfaith	DfE, Home Office, MHCLG, MoJ	1 May 2025

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	interactions (MHCLG); c. equipping law enforcement (e.g., through additional legislation) to identify and disrupt extremists in this country, and prevent those preaching values contrary to our own from entering the UK (Home Office); d. utilising the Serious Violence Duty to ensure local structures collaborate to tackle the issue of VFIs (Home Office); and, e. joining up with other efforts given overlap in interventions, particularly aims under the Safer Streets Mission and Youth Offending Teams, to reduce knife crime and Violence against Women and Girls including misogyny (Home Office and MoJ).		
4	Accelerate a national roll-out plan for Prevention Partnerships and wider complementary work to identify and support minors showing signs of vulnerability towards extreme violence.	Home Office, working with DfE, DHSC, MHCLG, MoJ	1 July 2025
5	Update guidance to expand Channel thresholds, with a particular focus on capturing borderline cases and repeat referrals.	Home Office	2 June 2025
6	Local services should prioritise the VFI cohort (individuals who do not meet Channel thresholds, but do represent a clear risk of violence to others) across the national security, social care, health, education, youth justice and law enforcement systems. Any resourcing and financial implications of delivering this should be considered at the Spending	CTP, DHSC, DfE, MoJ, MHCLG	1 July 2025

	Review. This should include: - Prioritising local authorities with a high concentration of VFIs for additional funding to address cohesion concerns and complement local delivery of Prevent (MHCLG); - Youth Offending Teams should prioritise those at risk of becoming VFIs, noting they are not currently set up for this purpose. This should be informed by the latest evidence on which interventions work (MoJ); - Prioritise adapting health services in 11 priority local areas to accept VFI referrals for access to mental health and other services, with a view to expanding further (DHSC); - Continuing to invest in, and potentially expand, the Interventions Centre of Excellence to improve handling of CT casework by refining our understanding of which interventions work, how best to deploy them and to ensure we are delivering value for money (CTP to coordinate).		
8	Scope further, more ambitious options which go beyond those in Action 7 for how social services can prioritise and support VFIs.	DfE, DHSC, MHCLG, MoJ working with Home Office	1 July 2025
9	Scope a national prevention gateway and case management service for the management of VFIs and vulnerable individuals more broadly.	Home Office, DfE, DHSC, MHCLG, MoJ	1 August 2025

10	DSIT SoS to update NSC with a package of measures, including: - How to reform HMG's approach to tech companies; - A review of Ofcom's structure, operations and how HMG government interacts with it; - How to support Ofcom to go hard on enforcement of the Online Safety Act and strengthen expectations on companies to develop technical solutions to more effectively identify, report and remove illegal content, with sanctions should they fail to do so; - Scoping the feasibility and desirability for device-level interventions for terrorism or extreme violence-related material, building on industry-led innovation in other areas; - Options to extend civil or criminal liability for tech executives whose services fail to identify and remove illegal content and how this approach would compare internationally; and, - Options to go further, e.g., on restricting social media access for children drawn from consideration of international models such as the Australian approach.	DSIT	2 June 2025
11	Develop the following legislative proposals, set out in paragraph 34b i-iii in the NSC paper: - Update legislation (e.g., TACT 2006) to broaden the definition of illegal terrorist content to reflect the impact	Home Office	1 August 2025

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	of material which is not instructional but contributes to radicalisation; and re-examine the boundaries of illegal material with particular reference to extreme violence and gore; - Strengthen the reporting requirements around illegal content to require companies to take reasonable steps to identify users who upload or interact with illegal material on their services; and, - Build on the provisions in the OSA to develop a faster takedown regime for disputed content, whereby government or law enforcement could directly issue and enforce notices requiring specific content to be removed.		
14	Reflect in departmental SR returns the need to invest significantly in national capability to detect, identify and disrupt online criminality, aiming to partner with tech companies where possible, but including the capacity to do so on a sovereign basis where companies cannot or will not act.	All departments	10 April 2025

Cabinet Office
25 March 2025