



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Terms of reference for independent review of Prevent announced

The government has ... published the terms of reference for the independent review of the Prevent programme. This follows the appointment of Lord Carlile to lead the review.

The review will focus on the current delivery of Prevent and make recommendations for the future of the government's strategy for safeguarding those vulnerable to radicalisation. This will include looking at how effectively Prevent is delivered at local and national levels, how effectively the Prevent statutory duty is being implemented, how it might be improved to respond to justified criticisms and complaints, and how it interacts with other safeguarding strategies.

The review will report to Parliament by August 2020.

Security Minister Brandon Lewis said: Prevent is an absolutely vital part of our efforts to stop people from being drawn into or supporting terrorism. ...

We know that Prevent is successfully stopping people being drawn into terrorism, and this review will give us further evidence of what works well, while also suggesting areas for improvements. ...

Independent reviewer of Prevent Lord Carlile said: This review is an opportunity to take stock of what Prevent looks like in practice, what's working and what isn't, and identify what improvements need to be made to respond to how the threat might change in the future. ...

Prevent deals with all forms of terrorism, including Islamist and extreme right wing, and does not focus on any one community. ...

To read the press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/terms-of-reference-for-independent-review-of-prevent-announced>

Independent review of Prevent: terms of reference

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-prevent-terms-of-reference/independent-review-of-prevent-terms-of-reference>

Scottish Parliament Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee

Evidence session: National Records of Scotland (Census Order)

10.15 Mike Rumbles (Liberal Democrat): I will move on to the questions about ethnicity ... I assume that you want to be as accurate as possible, to get all the information that you need, and accuracy needs consistency. After question 23, “What is your ethnic group?”, section A is based on a colour; sections C and D are based on geography; section E is based on geography and colour; and section F has religion in it. Is that consistent?

Amy Wilson (Director of statistical services, National Records of Scotland): Our current ethnicity classification has had an issue for some time around the use of colour terminology and geographic information. ...

Some stakeholders do not like the use of the term “Black”, and we moved on in 2011 by separating out the “African” category. We consulted on whether the term “Black” should be removed this time around. ... We had a very low response the last time around, and we wanted to know how people would be able to respond if that category were to be removed. ...

I accept that the question involves different concepts. For 2011, we tried an ethnicity framework that was entirely geography based, but that did not work very well either. ...

10.30 Kenneth Gibson (SNP): ... Under question 21, which is on religion, a possible answer is “Jewish”. However, under question 23, which is on ethnicity, Jewish people have also been classed as an ethnic group. If I was to convert to Judaism tomorrow, would I tick “Scottish” or “Jewish” under question 23? There is surely a wee contradiction there, because one best describes ethnic group or background but, if you convert, you might feel fervently about that. Why is “Jewish” a possible answer for ethnicity and religion?

Amy Wilson: We have worked with stakeholders for a long time on that question. The Jewish and Sikh communities—at least, certain parts of those communities—have strong views about the fact that Judaism and Sikhism are both religions and ethnic backgrounds. There is a strong sense from the Jewish community and some evidence from 2001—when we asked a question about religion of upbringing as well as current religion—that asking a question such as question 21 undercounts the whole Jewish population, and people who are not practising Jews but are ethnically Jewish and might want Jewish end-of-life services or other such things do not get counted. ...

We did some survey work with the Jewish population and found that, because of all sorts of connotations, some people were not at all keen on having “Jewish” listed as an ethnicity, but some people were keen. We looked at having a separate tick box for “Jewish” under the ethnicity question, but it did not test well and some people were very uncomfortable about that. However, working with Jewish groups, we found that having the tick box as a prompt was the best way to indicate to those people who deemed their ethnicity to be Jewish that, whether or not they ticked “Jewish” for question 21, it was acceptable to do so.

With the Sikh community, it was slightly different. When we looked at having a “Sikh” tick box or prompt, we found that it was not considered as acceptable, and we have worked with the community to agree that we will not have “Sikh” as a possible answer to the ethnic group question.

Ross Greer (Green): ... I note that there are essentially three broad definitions of what it means to be Jewish: there is a religious identity, a cultural identity and a recognised

ethnicity. A person can be ethnically Jewish without being a practising religious Jew, for example, which is different from other faiths. ...

We know that one of the ways in which antisemitism manifests itself is in discrimination against people who appear to be Jewish on the basis of their ethnicity. Regardless of whether they practise as a Jew by faith, they suffer from antisemitism simply because they look Jewish. No position is ever going to be unanimous, but, on the whole, the Jewish community is happy with what we have in the census, and I am grateful to you for that. ...

To read the full transcript see

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12252&i=110744#ScotParlOR>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

**** Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/divorcedissolutionandseparation.html>

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Domestic Abuse Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/domesticabuse.html>

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** International Development Assistance (Palestinian National Authority Schools) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/internationaldevelopmentassistancepalestiniannationalauthoritieschools.html>

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Online Forums Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.html>

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

**** Palestinian Statehood (Recognition) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/palestinianstatehoodrecognition.html>

The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the session. This means the Bill will make no further progress.

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Consultations ** new or updated today

Islamophobia in Scotland (closing date 30 September 2019)

<https://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=13027>

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438