

## Methodology

To analyze British legislators' responses on Twitter to U.S. President Donald Trump's state visit to the United Kingdom, researchers obtained all 33,766 public tweets from each of the 832 members of the House of Commons and House of Lords who have a Twitter account and posted at least once between May 31 and June 9 – a period stretching from three days before to three days after the state visit. Researchers used the public Twitter Application Programming Interface (API) to collect the tweets. Of the 832 legislators with a Twitter account, 208 legislators tweeted original content (not including retweets) related to the state visit during the time analyzed.

### Topic coding

Researchers limited their analysis solely to original tweets from the members of parliament, excluding 19,020 retweets sent during the period. Researchers then manually examined this sample of originally generated tweets to assess which hashtags, account names and keywords were used when discussing the UK state visit. Based on this manual examination, researchers generated key words to identify (table below) a subsample of potentially relevant tweets, further narrowing down the tweets to a total of 547 tweets related to the state visit.

The researchers worked together using this subsample of tweets to generate and revise a list of coding categories and separately coded the tweets into the agreed-upon categories.

### Categories used to code legislators' tweets

| Topic  | # of tweets |
|--|-------------|
| National Health Service                                | 110         |
| Criticism of potential U.S.-UK trade deal              | 96          |
| Question UK inviting Trump/visit is inappropriate      | 72          |
| Special relationship/historical alliance/D-Day         | 71          |
| Support for anti-Trump protests                        | 62          |
| Reference to Trump tweet about London Mayor Sadiq Khan | 40          |
| Boris Johnson/Trump endorsement of UK politicians      | 36          |
| Praise for state visit                                 | 36          |
| General negative comment about Trump                   | 34          |
| Nigel Farage/far-right politics                        | 29          |
| Queen/royal family/state dinner                        | 29          |
| Concern about anti-Trump protests                      | 29          |
| Jeremy Corbyn/skipping state dinner                    | 27          |
| Climate policy/climate change                          | 26          |
| Hate/divisiveness                                      | 24          |
| Personal participation in protests                     | 23          |
| Sexism/sexist/misogyny                                 | 22          |
| Racism/racist  | 20          |
| Food standards/chlorinated chicken                     | 20          |
| Theresa May as lame duck                               | 19          |
| Praise of U.S.-UK trade deal                           | 9           |
| Xenophobia   | 8           |
| Criticizing media/fake news                            | 8           |
| America First  | 7           |
| Budget/taxpayer money/visit inconvenience              | 7           |
| Wall in Ireland  | 6           |
| Meghan Markle/Trump's description of her as "nasty"    | 5           |
| Technology/Huawei/China policy                         | 5           |
| Blimp/balloon at protests                              | 4           |
| Police handling of visit                               | 3           |
| White supremacy  | 2           |

Note: Tweets that mention more than one topic are counted in multiple categories.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of UK legislators Twitter data, collected May 31-June 9, 2019, among 832 UK legislators with Twitter accounts.

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They then separately coded the responses and achieved high levels of intercoder reliability on a subset that they both reviewed (Krippendorff's alpha=0.8). For 58 tweets that proved difficult to code because they had little context or potentially ambiguous content, two researchers worked together to decide their codes by consensus. (Tweets that mentioned more than one topic were counted in multiple categories.)

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### Keywords used for subsetting tweets based on potential relevance

|                  |               |             |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| trump            | potus         | flotus      |
| queen            | usstatvisit   | state visit |
| donald           | ivanka        | melania     |
| visit            | mayoroflondon | america     |
| united<br>states | usa           | nasty       |
| wall             | sadiq         | blimp       |
| balloon          | protest       | president   |

Note: Search not case sensitive.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of UK legislators Twitter data, collected May 31-June 9, 2019, among 832 UK legislators with Twitter accounts.

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