

# Brexit

The Digital Aftermath

# DEMOS



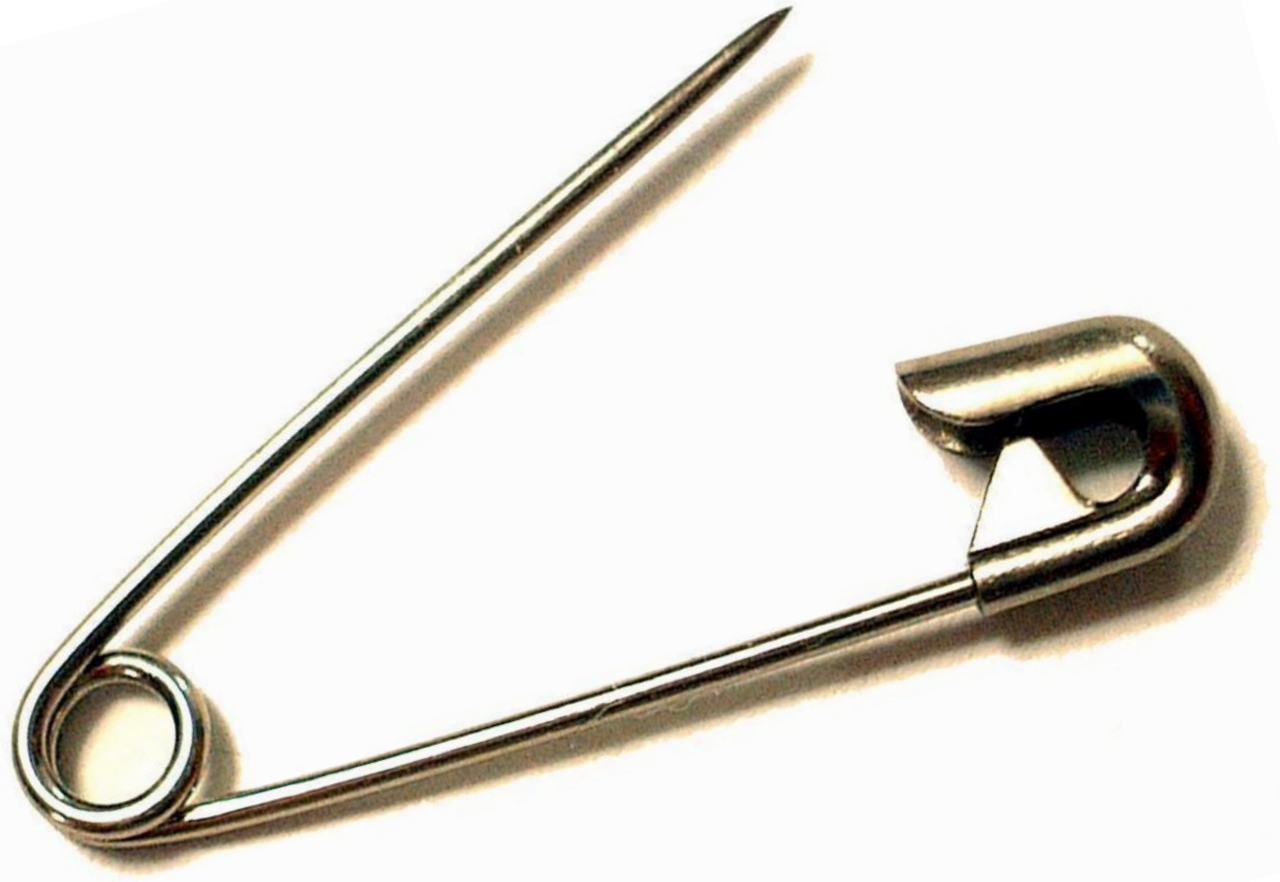
# Research conducted for Channel4 Dispatches: **Racist Britain**

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**Centre for the Analysis of Social Media, Demos**

# 1. Migration and Brexit

The Wider Discussion.



**20 May - 2nd June, over  
100,000 Tweets were  
sent mentioning UK MP  
and EU referendum  
hashtag.**



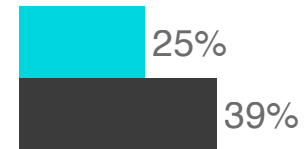
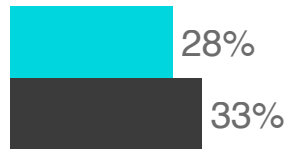
In the run up to the vote,  
**Leave campaigners** (who  
each sent 5+ pro-Brexit  
Tweets) sent **97,000**  
Tweets, pro-Remain sent  
**13,000**

**immigration** was one of  
the three key themes of  
the campaign

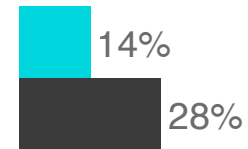
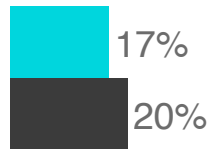
20th May-26th May

27th May-2nd June

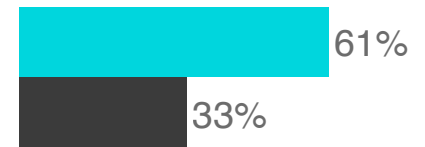
Sovereignty



Immigration



Economy



Leave



Remain



Algorithm: 70%  
accurate

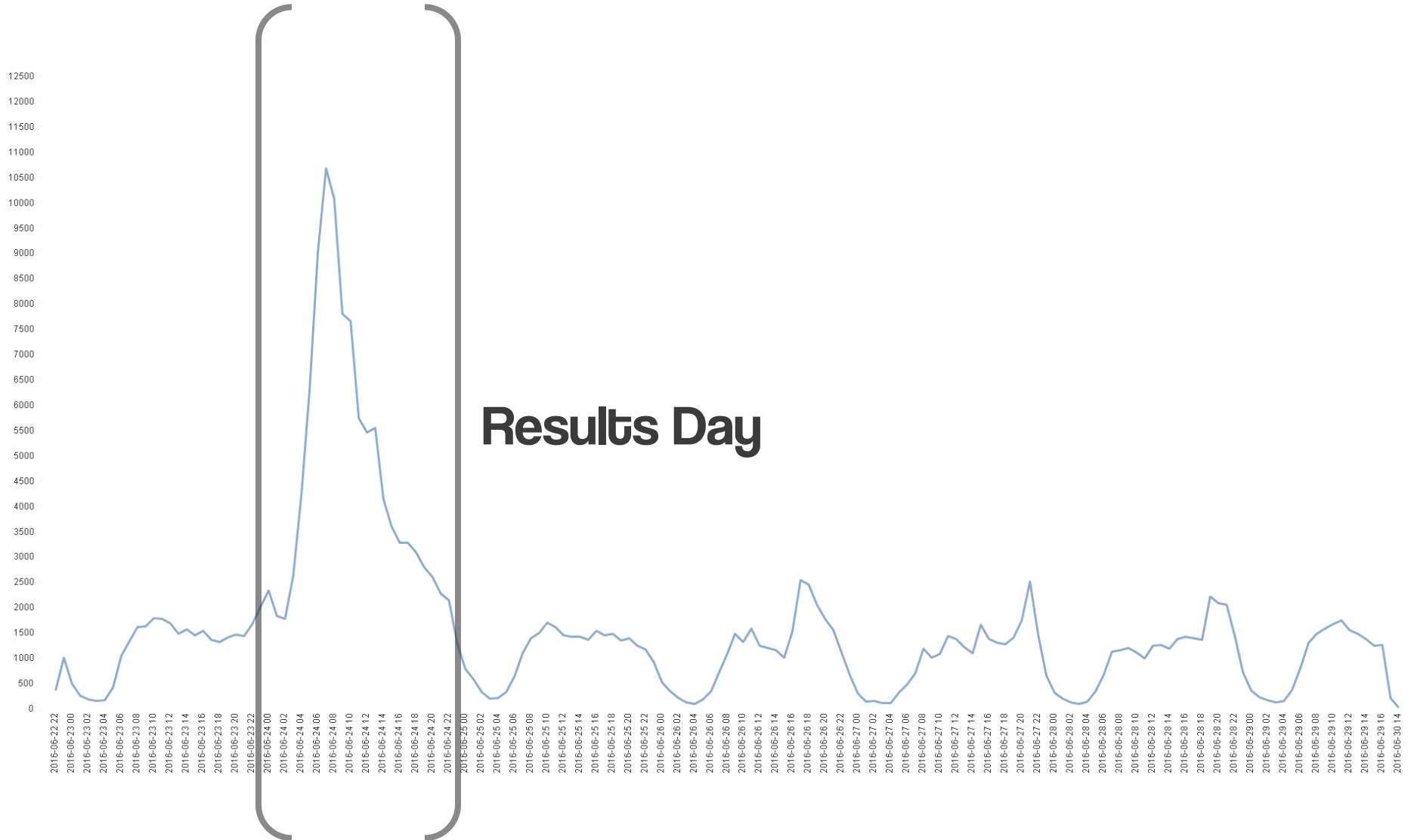
**General discussion of  
migration and  
immigration spiked over  
the Brexit period.**

**258,553  
tweets**

**22nd June-30th June**

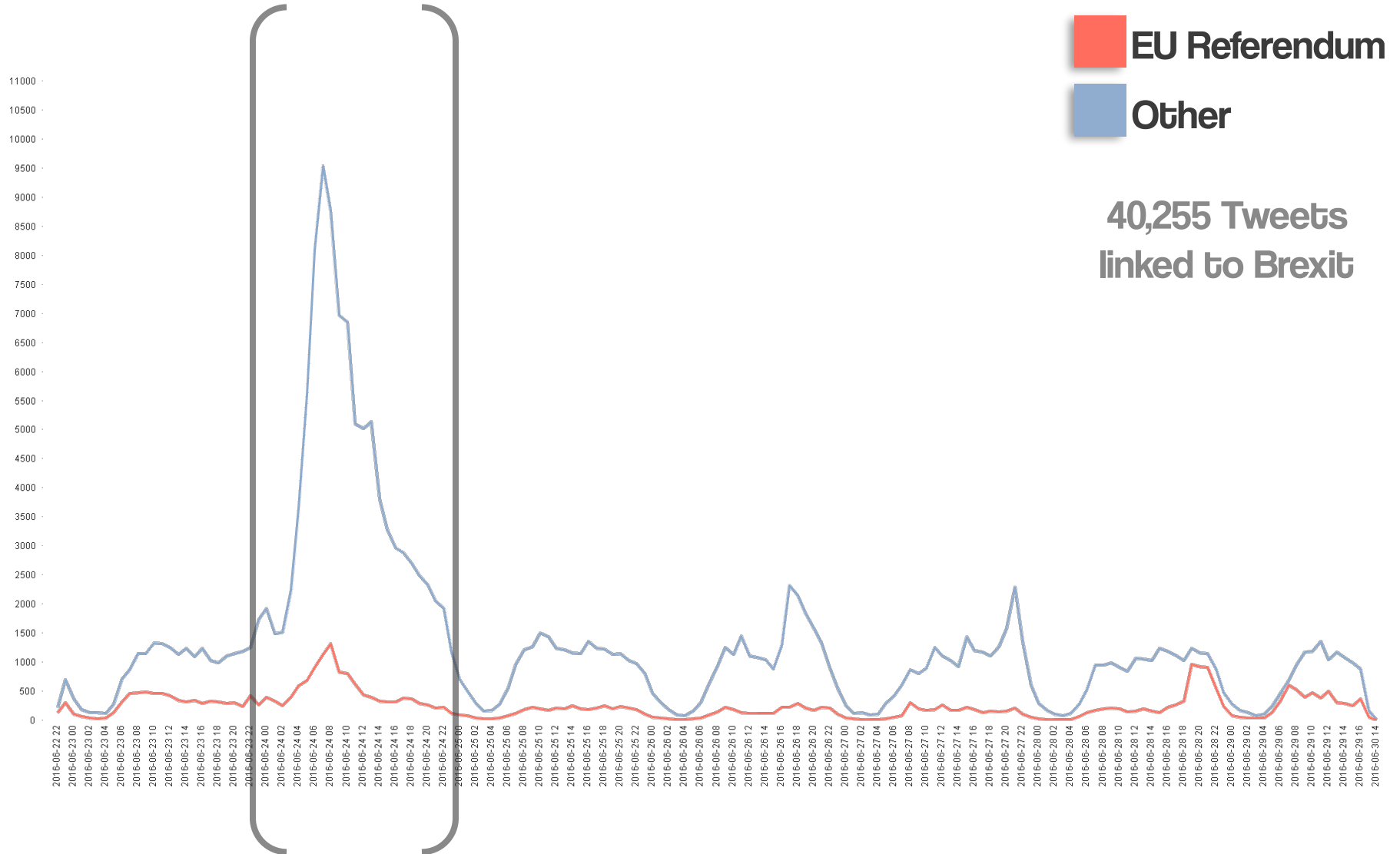
**From the UK, containing 'migrant', 'migrants',  
immigrant', immigrants', 'refugee', refugees'.**

# Discussions of Immigration Peaked over Brexit Migration Tweets over Time



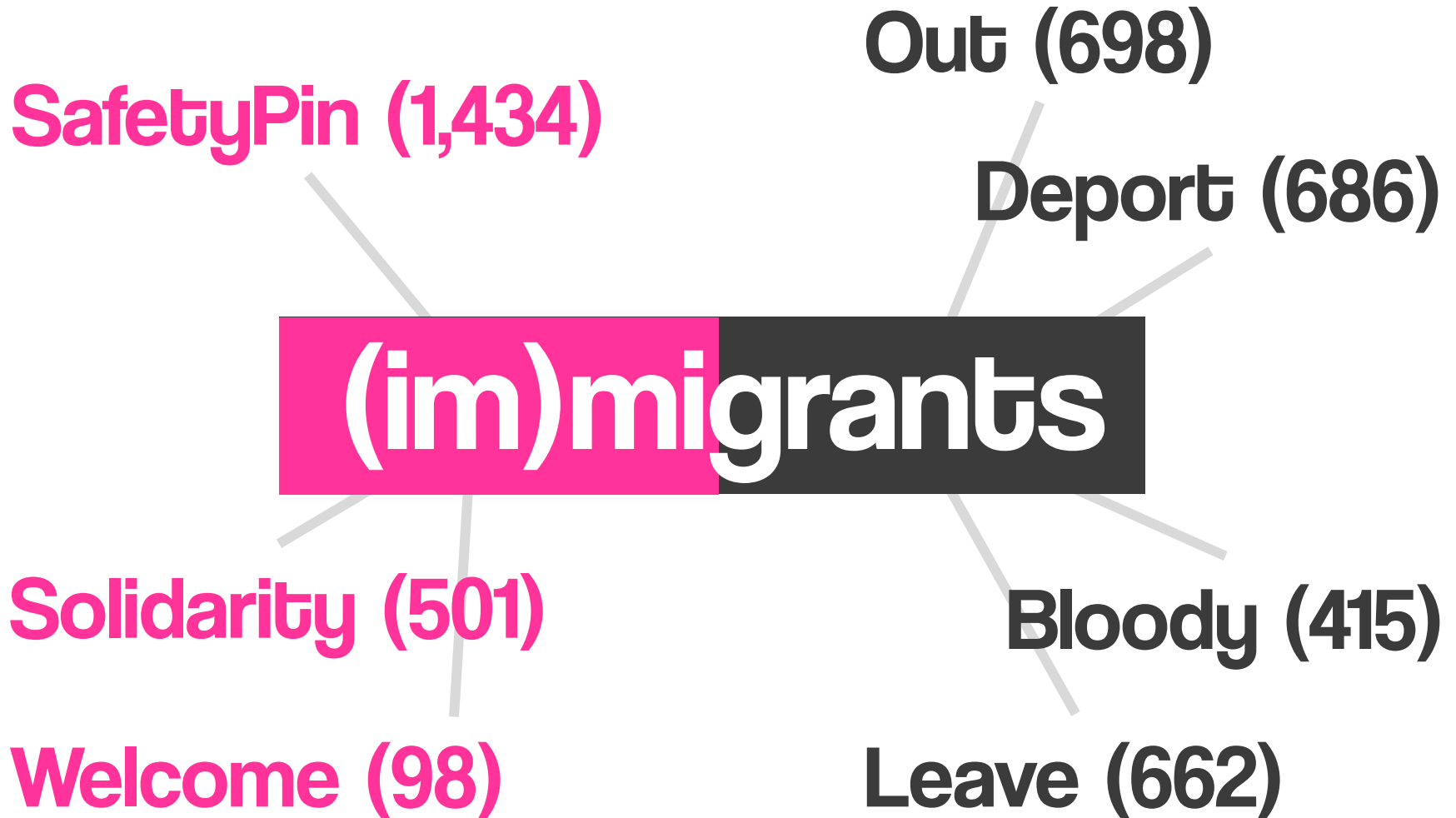
# Some Immigration Discussion explicitly linked to Brexit

#Brexit, EU, #StrongerIn #BetteroffOut etc.



Discussions of Migrants was Highly Disputed

Co-Location of Language around Migrants





## 2. Xenophobia



# 16,151 tweets

used a term related to  
**xenophobia** or an  
**anti-immigrant** attitude

19<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July

# 16,151 tweets

RefugeesNotWelcome  
DefendEurope  
WhiteGenocide  
WhitePower  
SendThemHome  
MakeBritainWhiteAgain  
Get Out We Voted Leave  
Londonistan  
Rapefugee  
StopImmigration  
FuckIslam

Etc.

*(Likely only a small  
kernel of the relevant  
conversation)*

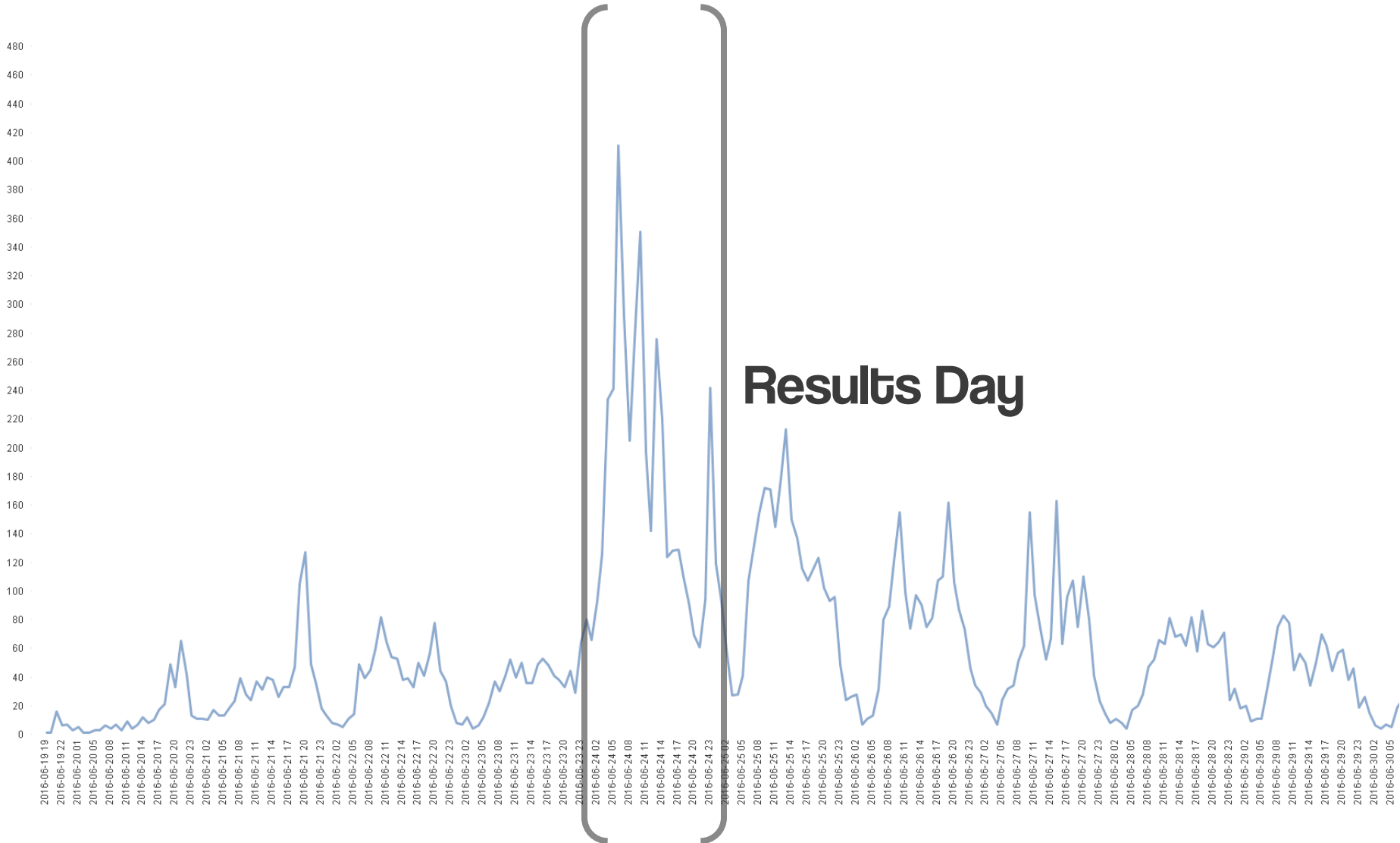
# 13,236 tweets

using a term related to  
**xenophobia** or an  
**anti-immigrant** attitude  
in the wake of the Brexit  
vote itself

24<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July

# Xenophobia in the Wake of the Referendum

## Tweets containing Xenophobic Language over Time



# But this conversation was contested.

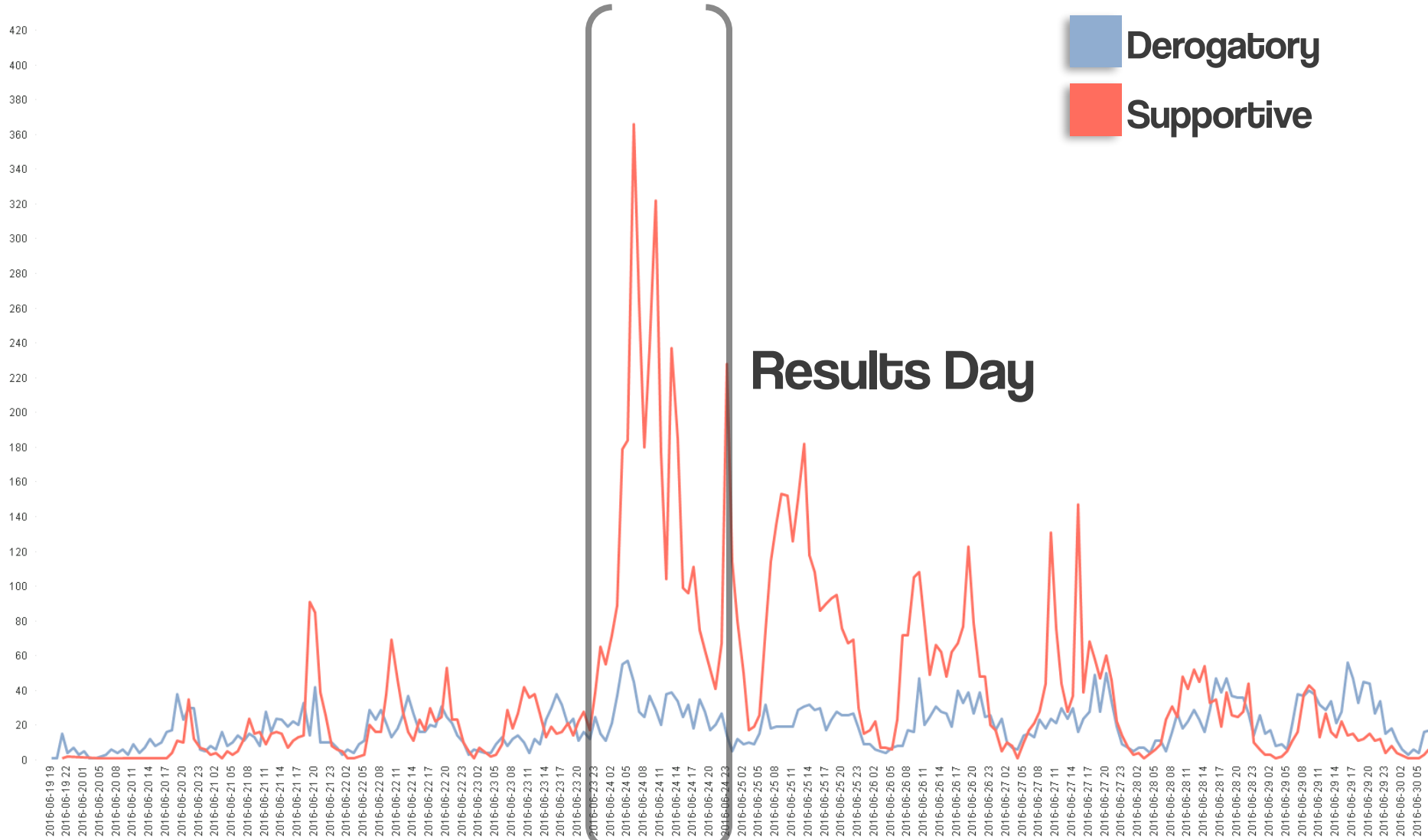
**Derogatory**  
5,484 Tweets

**Supportive**  
10,671 Tweets

**Algorithm: 76% Accurate**

# Xenophobia in the Wake of the Referendum

## Xenophobic Tweets over Time



# From the 24th of June...

**Derogatory**  
4,048 Tweets

**Supportive**  
9,118 Tweets



# On the 24th

**Derogatory**  
707 Tweets

**Supportive**  
3,549 Tweets

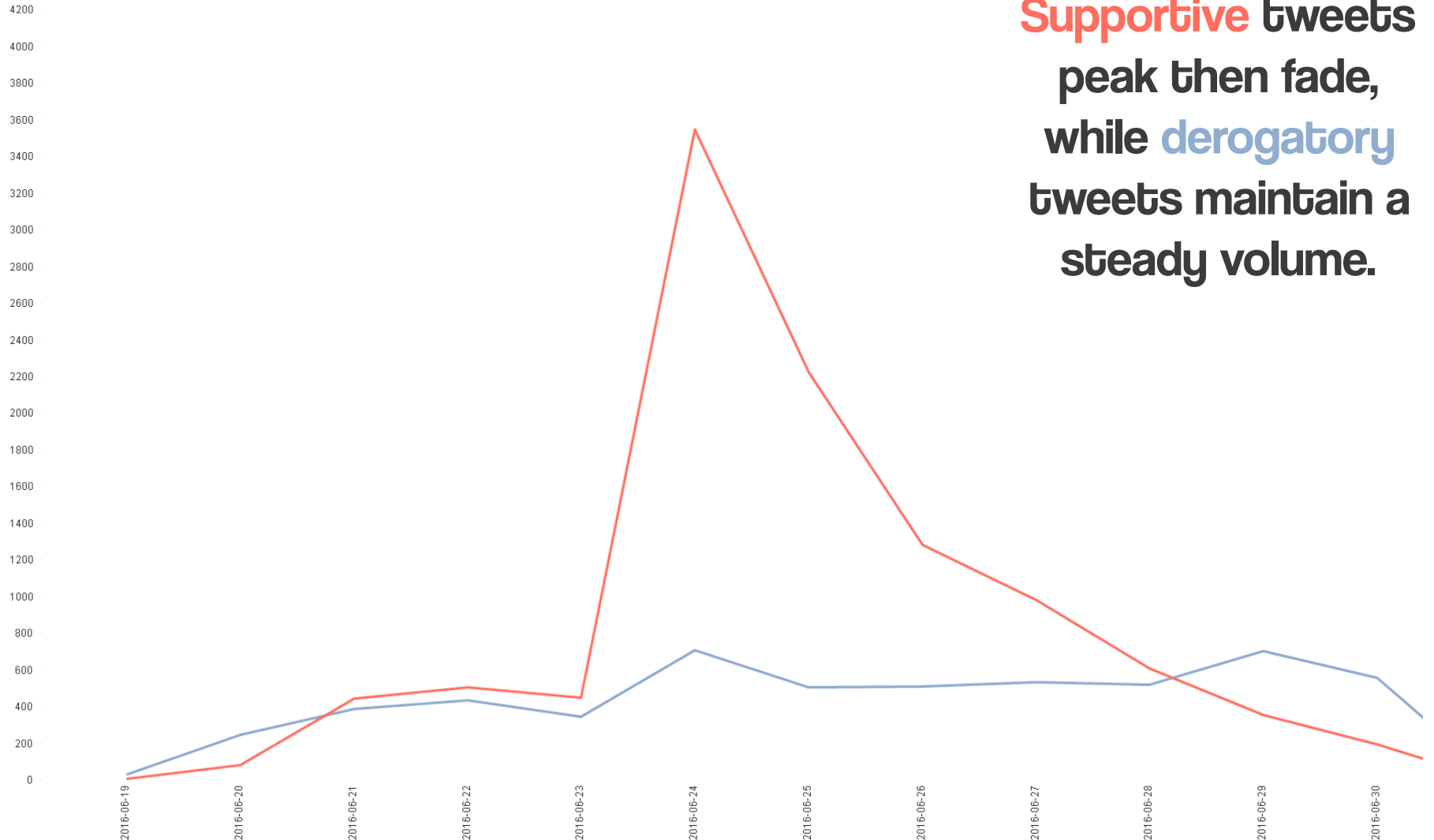
# On the 25th

**Derogatory**  
502 Tweets

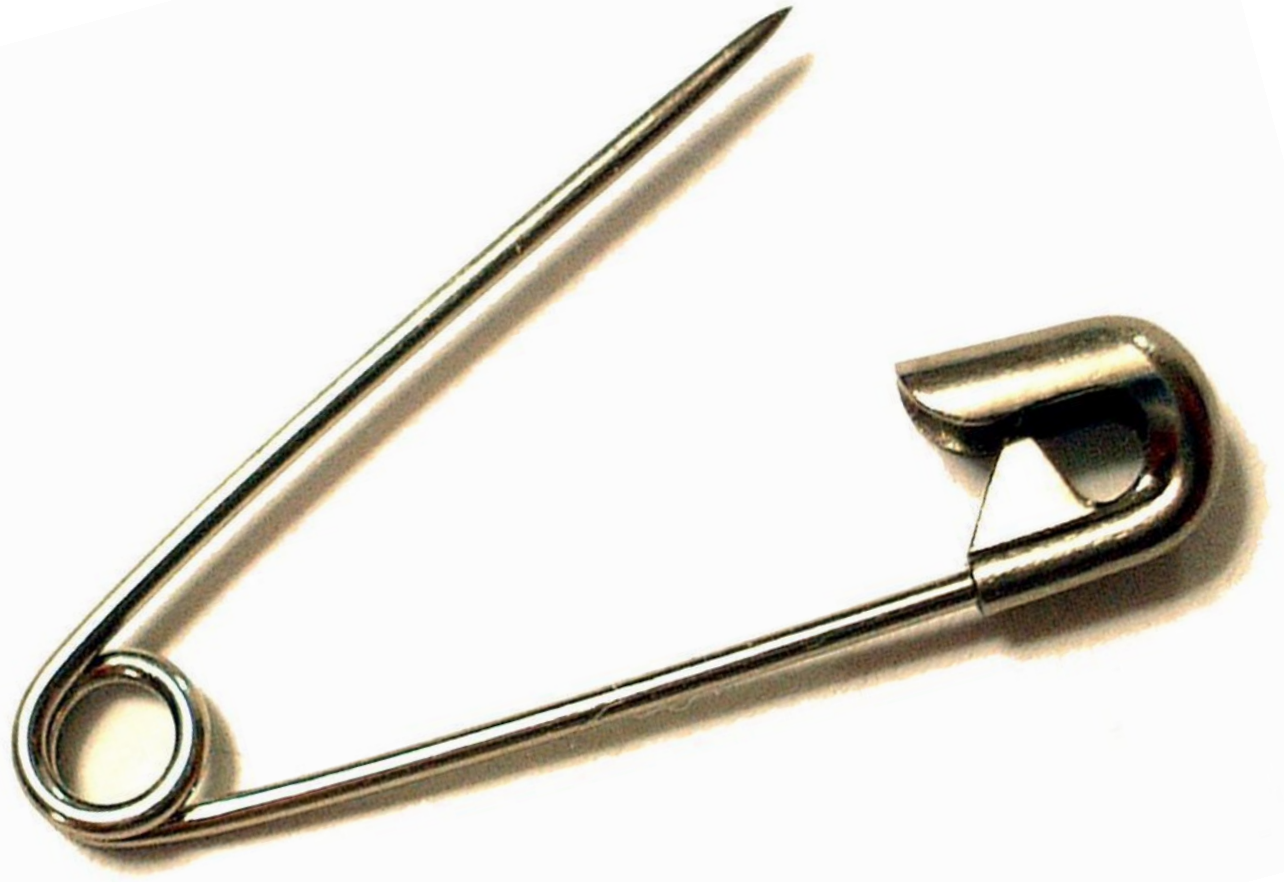
**Supportive**  
2,225 Tweets

# Xenophobia in the Wake of the Referendum

## Xenophobic Tweets over Time



# 3. Islamophobia



**Across the world**

**4,123,705 Tweets** were  
sent containing a word  
that can be anti-Islamic

**Between 18th March - 30 June**

# but some of these terms are very broad

Jihadi  
terrorist  
Rag-head  
Sand flea  
Dune Nigger  
Sand Monkey  
Rug-pilot  
Camel Fucker  
Rug pilot  
Paki  
Muzrats

Etc.

**These were analysed by a  
series of algorithms**

**To find Tweets which were  
derogatory and explicitly  
anti-Islamic**

**100 Tweets randomly  
selected: 78 were  
judged to be hateful**

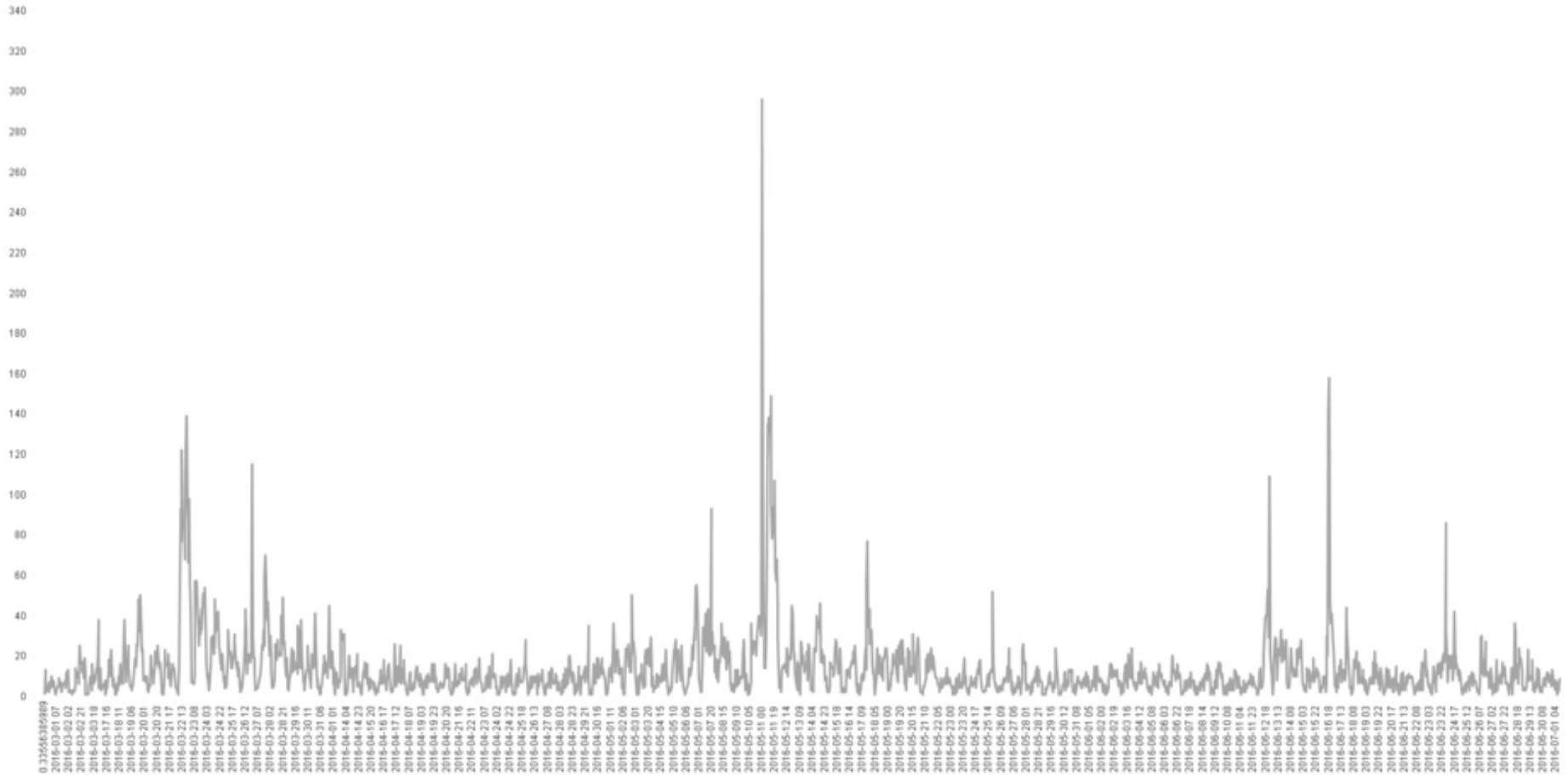
# 28,034 tweets

were judged to be from  
the UK, explicitly **anti-  
Islamic** and **derogatory**

18th March - 30 June

# Islamophobia Online

## Long-view of Islamophobia on Twitter





# Islamophobia Online

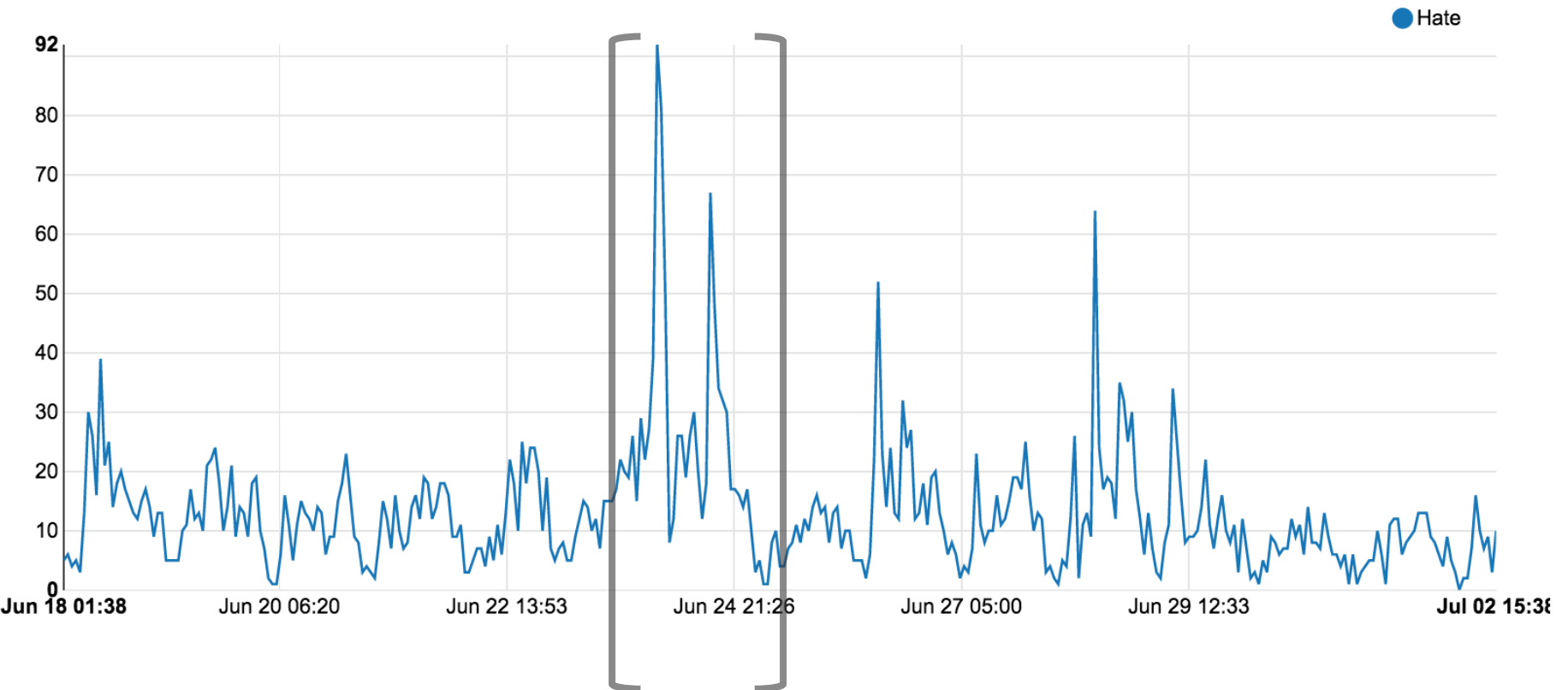
## Long-view of Islamophobia on Twitter



# Islamophobia Online

## Islamophobic Tweets over the Brexit Period

Small peak beginning  
8pm on June 23rd to  
midnight on the 25th



**479 anti-Islamic Tweets**  
**on the 24th June**

**146 anti-Islamic Tweets**  
**on the 25th of June**

**EU Referendum roughly  
comparable to a terrorist  
attack...**

**...but not comparable to  
Zayn Malik being abused  
by Azealia Banks.**

RIP to you bunch of paki nigger muslim cunts  
you mad you gotta leave? fucking pakis

Too many muzzies and left  
wingers voting remain

I for one don't want this Muslim scum in our country

#VoteLeave @XXX @XXX @XXX @XXX <https://t.co/IU7I03c1lP> hitler was right fuck the pakis

someone said we're losing cos  
pakis are voting tomorrow fgs

@XXX @XXX @XXX Close the  
borders, and keep the scum out. We  
don't want to be another third world  
Muslim country. #voteleave

@XXX @XXX But it's okay for fucking  
muslim scum to march down our  
streets applauding isis & spewing  
hatred of the West.

THERESA MAY HAS BEEN SOFT ON  
PAKI RAPE GANGS, SOFT ON  
IMMIGRATION SUPPORTED REMAIN &  
CLAIMS SHARIA COURTS GREATLY  
BENEFIT BRITAIN #VoteGove

Bare Niggers and Pakis voted out ffs  
what a bunch of fucking hypocrites

Jewish elite scum run the EU they flood us with  
Muslim scum and you wanted to remain you  
absolute fool, wake up <https://t.co/GX5hctnFbh>

There's gona be a day when they kick us out of the country #VoteLeave get all these paki  
because of all these paki freshy budday that voted leave bastards out

To all those who voted remain: Jihadi Khan wants #Londonistan!!! A Muslim city seperate  
from the UK! This is what happens when u elect Muslims!!!

When the jihad starts good luck.

<https://t.co/SWtYcmfvws>

**#PostRefRacism.**





# Two hashtags emerged after the referendum.

**#SafetyPin**

...to show solidarity with  
migrants.

44,003 Tweets

**#PostRefRacism**

...to raise awareness of  
xenophobia and racism.

56,089 Tweets

From June 25nd to July 4th

# 98,948 tweets

were sent using either

**#postrefracism** or

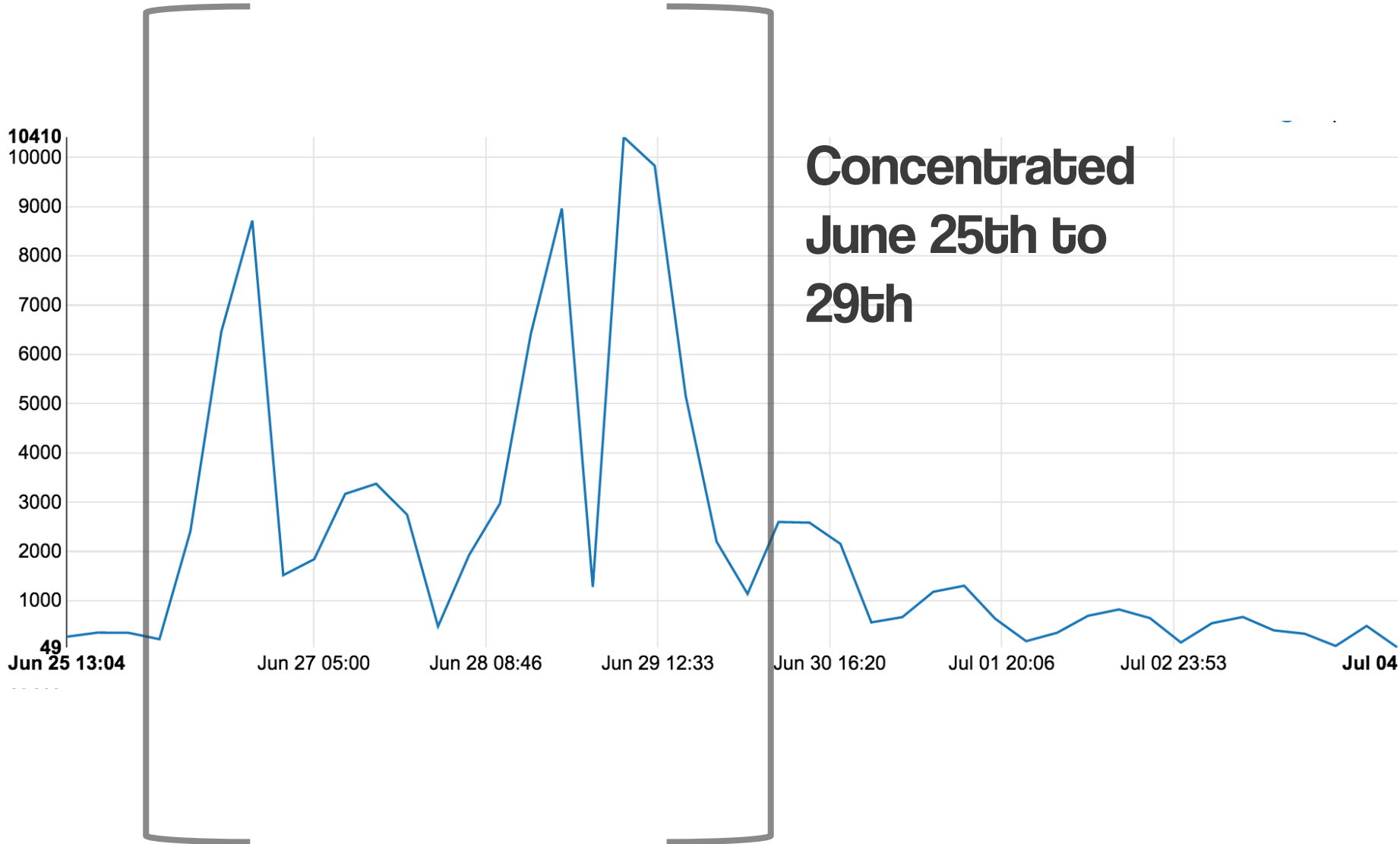
**#safetypin**

From June 25th to July 4th



# Two Key Hashtags in the Wake of the Vote

Tweets containing #PostRefRacism and #SafetyPin



# **An algorithm was built to split Tweets into:**

**Those generally raising awareness  
of hate crime**

**— and —**

**Those specifically providing  
accounts of it**

# Of the 98,948 Tweets

**Specific accounts**  
17,260

**General Awareness**  
81,688

This includes Retweets

Algorithm: 83%  
accurate

# Within the 17,260...

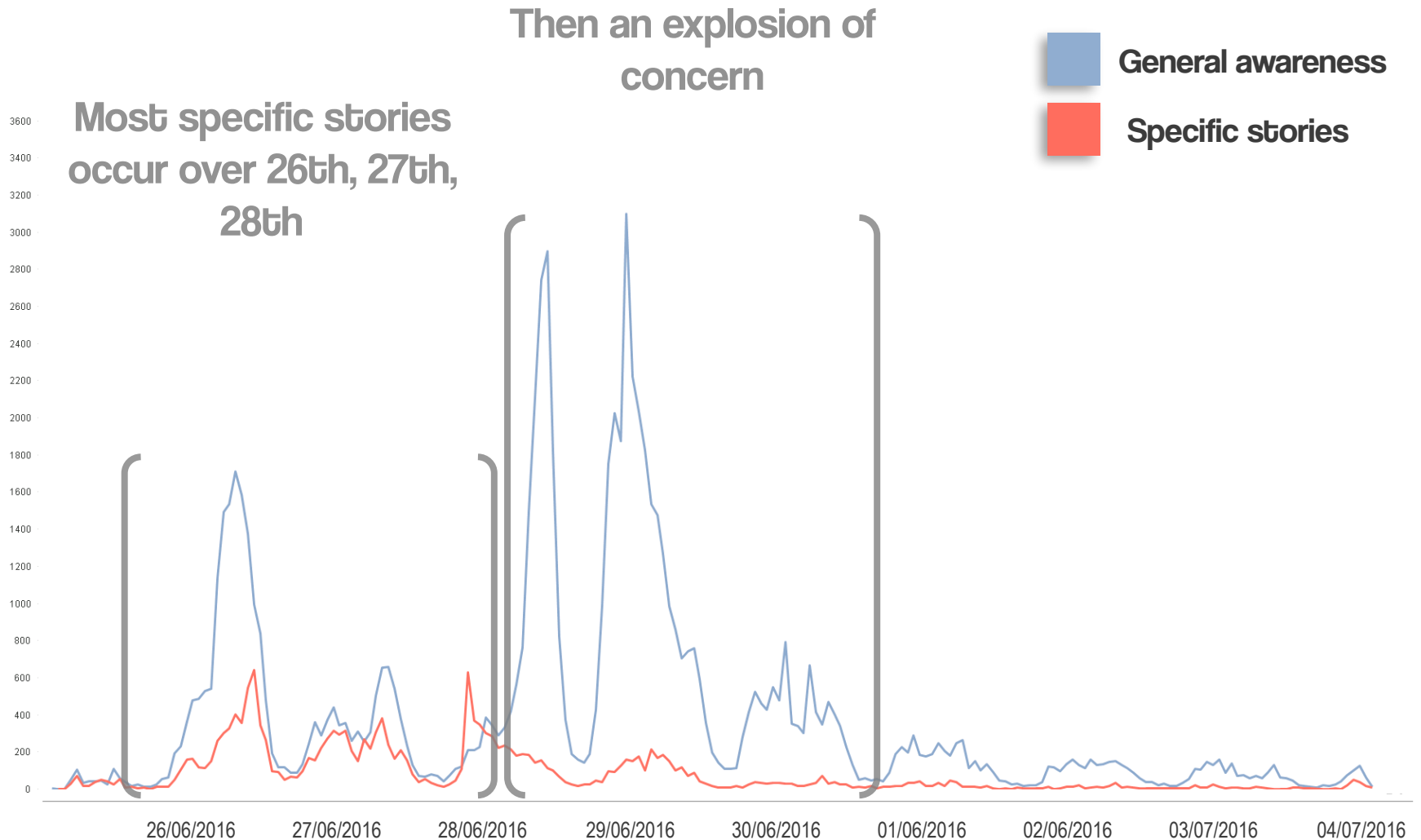
**Direct accounts** of harassment

Relaying **other accounts** of harassment the writer had heard

Some **more general** expressions of solidarity with migrants not removed by the algorithm

# Postrefracism

## General Awareness vs. Specific Stories



**Of 17,260 specific stories...**

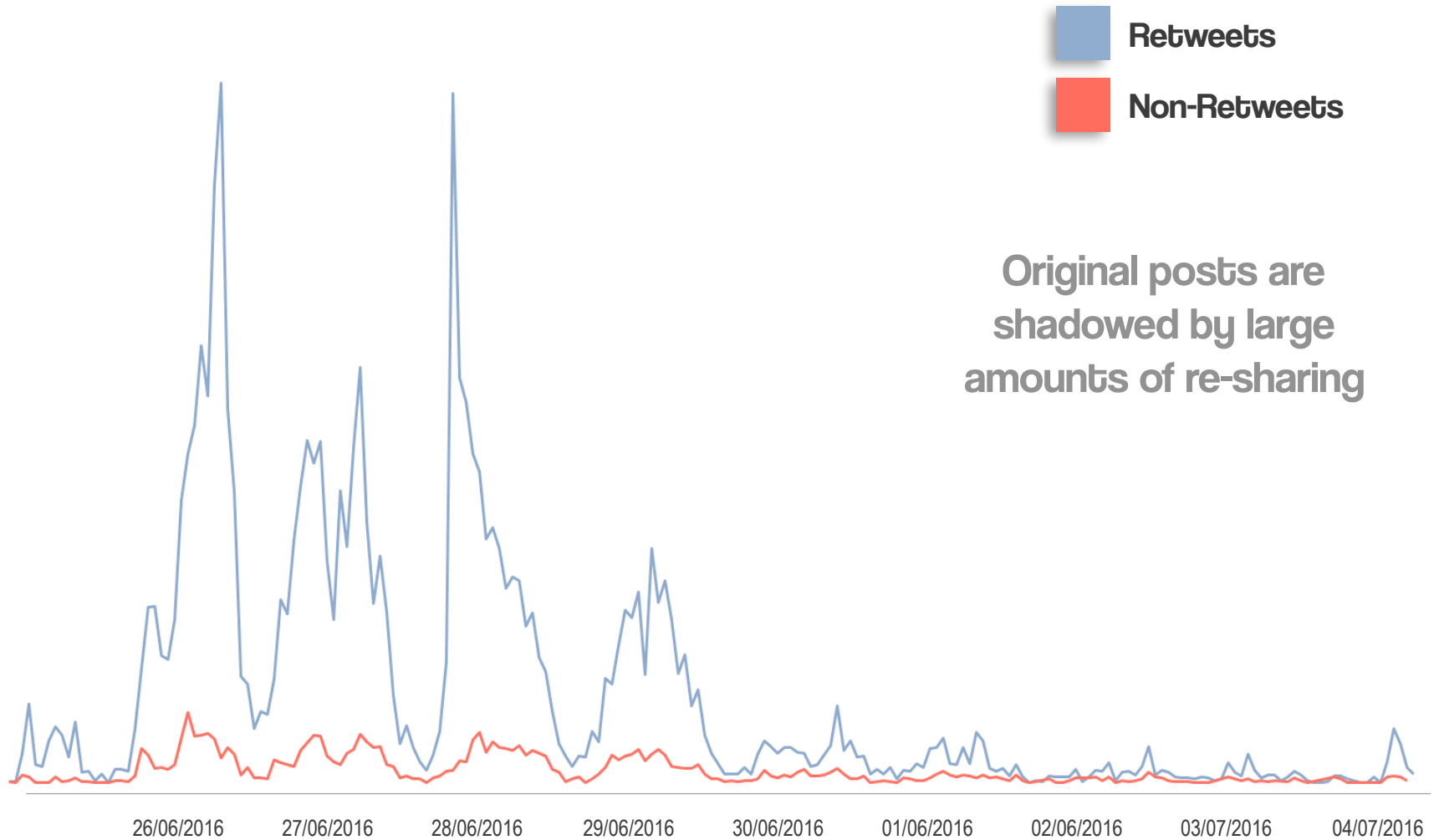
**2,413 were original posts**

**— and —**

**14,847 were retweets**

# Postrefracism

## Specific stories: Retweets vs. Non-Retweets



**None of these measures are perfect: algorithms make mistakes.**

**We don't know if any of the accounts are true.**

**Not geo-locationally filtered, but were using a UK-based hashtag**



**Of the 17,621 Tweets...**

- **5,690 (32%) came from another country**
- **6,720 came from the UK**

**Of the 6,720 Tweets from the UK...**

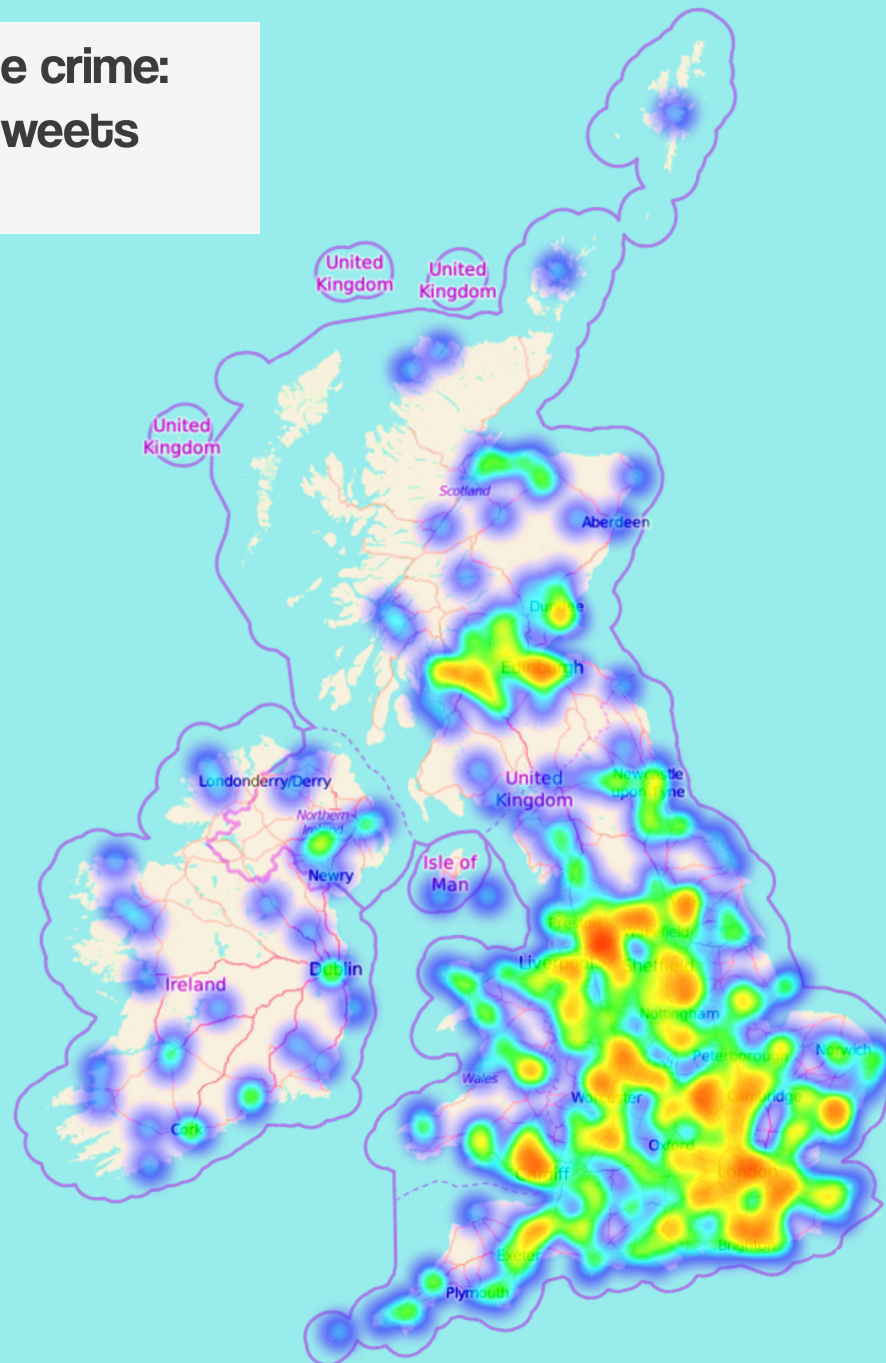
- **5,372 could be accurately located to a sub-regional level in the UK**

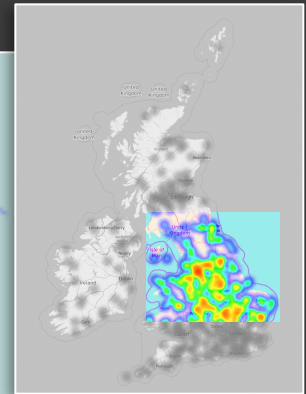
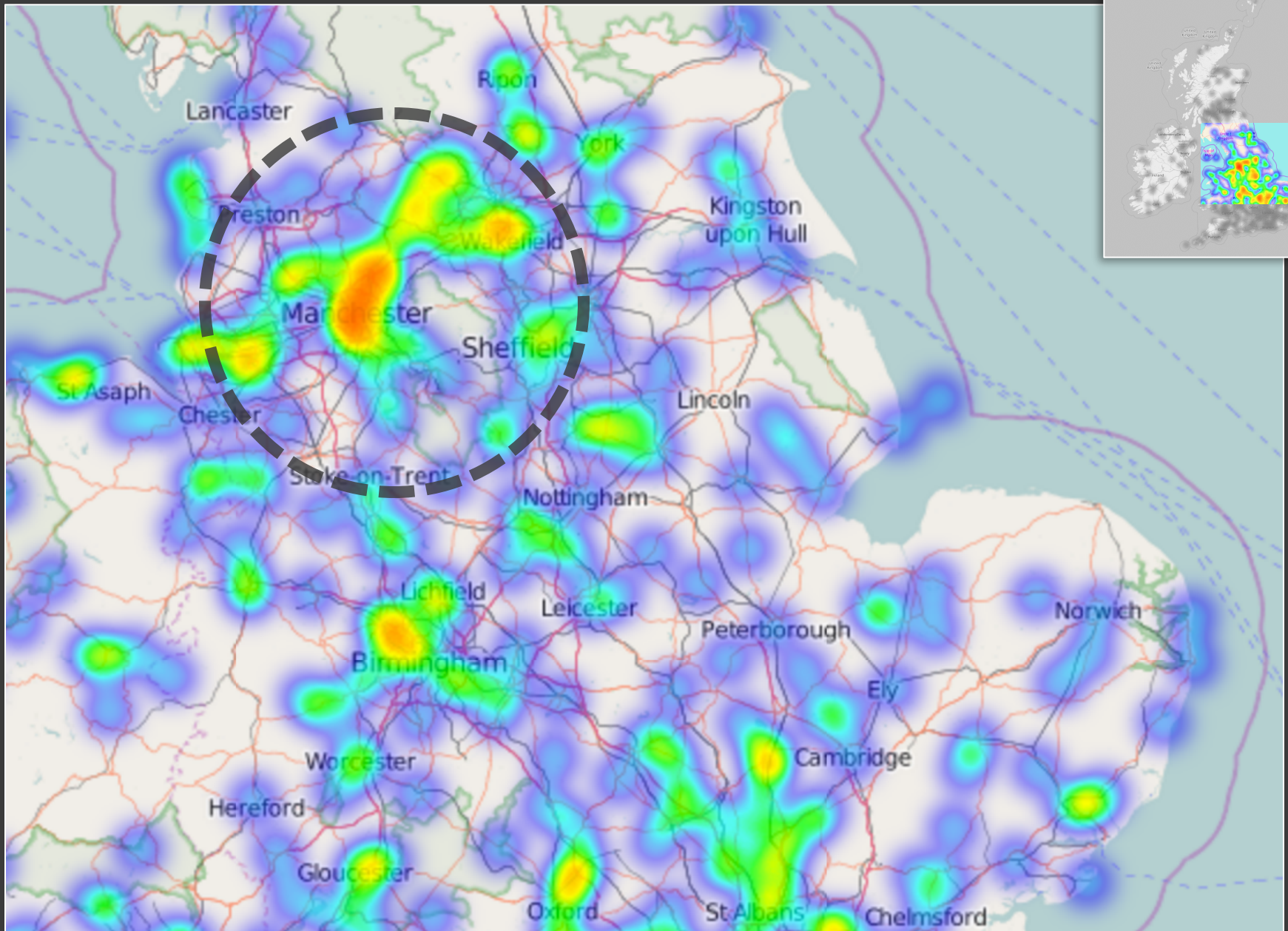
**The location of the Tweet is where the incident is reported, not necessarily where it occurs**

**The map includes people reporting the incident**

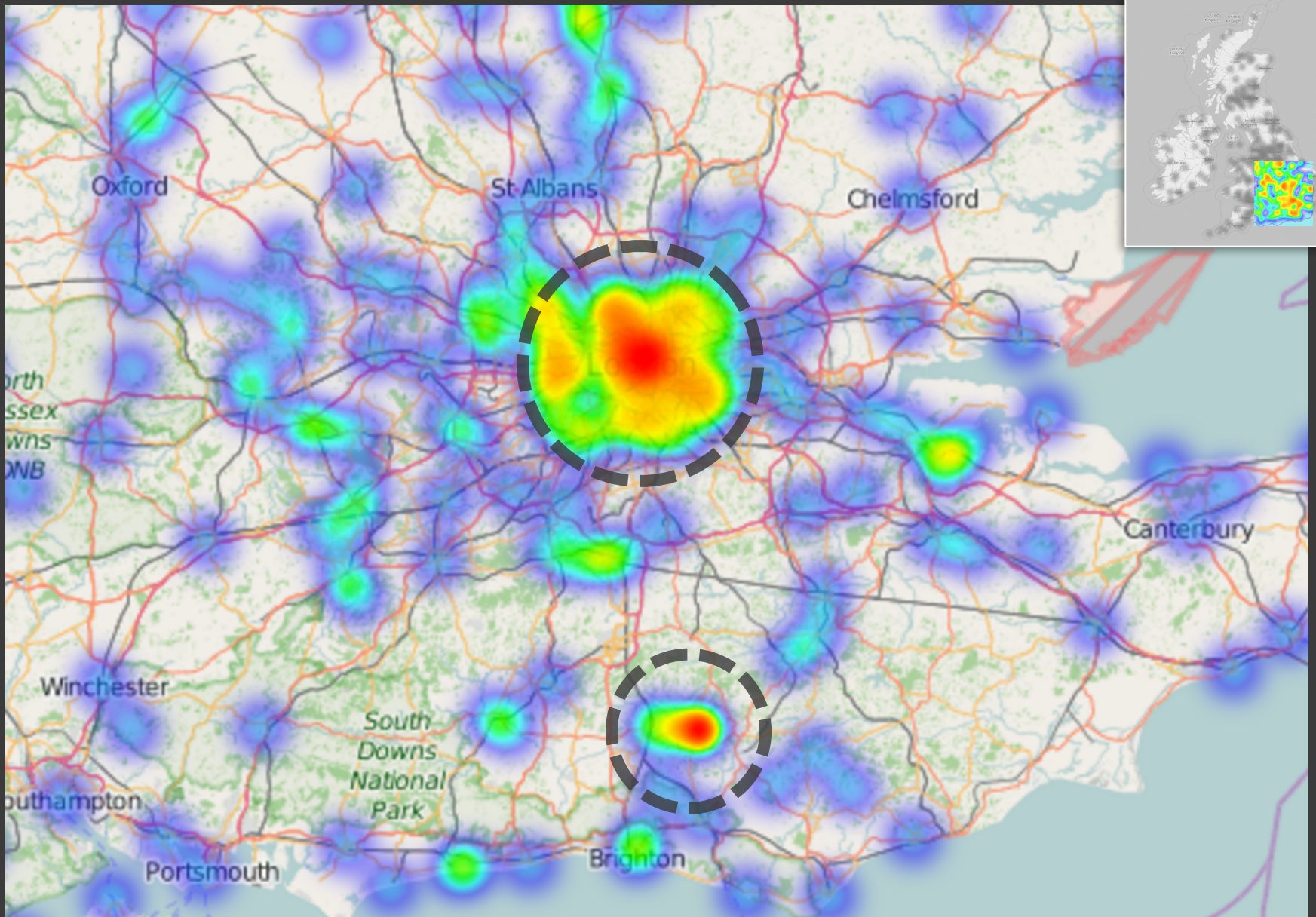
**To some degree, it reflects the population density of the UK**

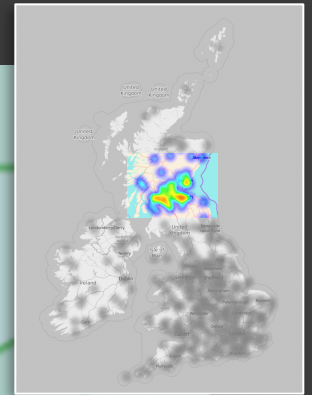
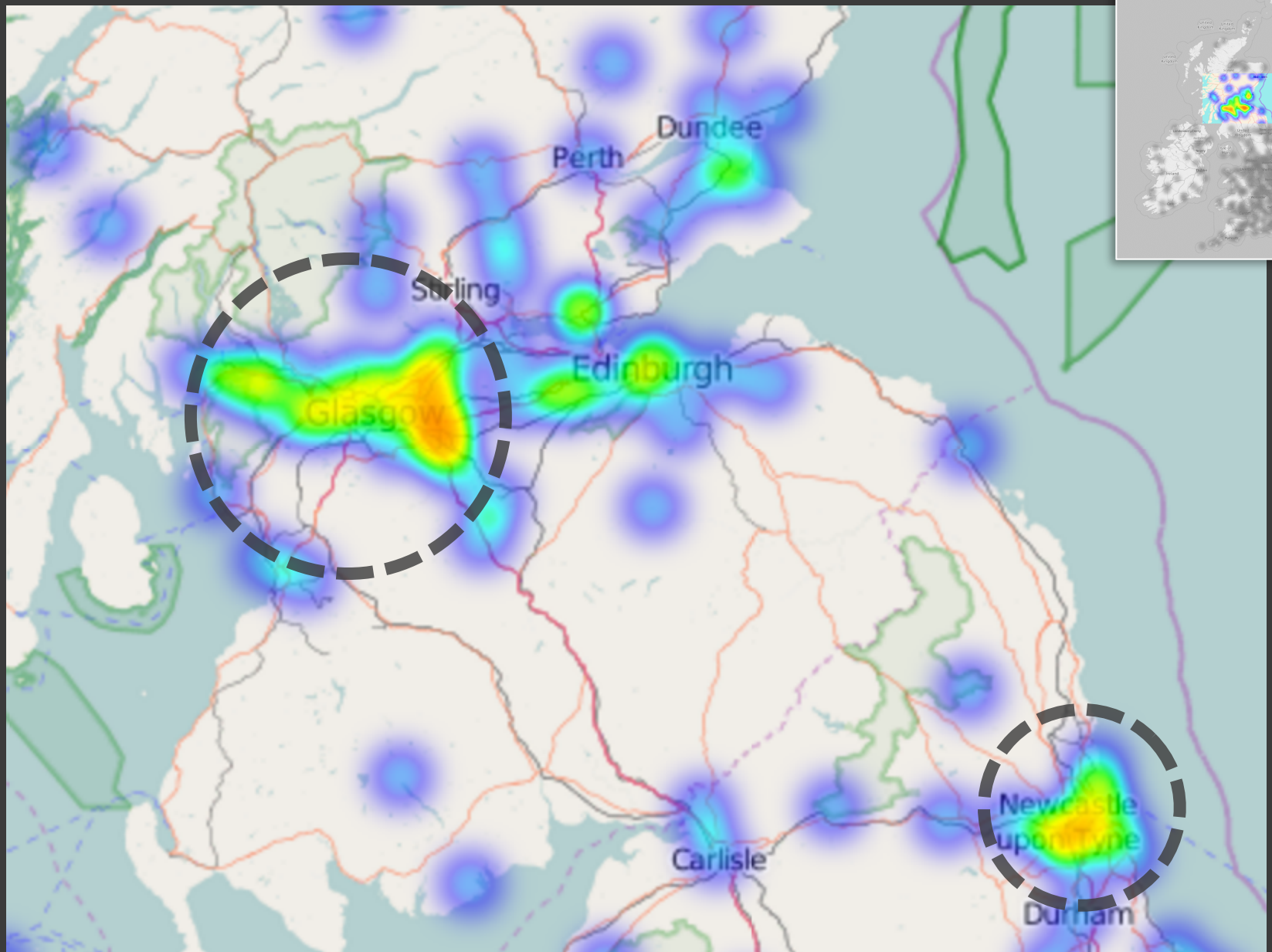
## Accounts of hate crime: original and retweets





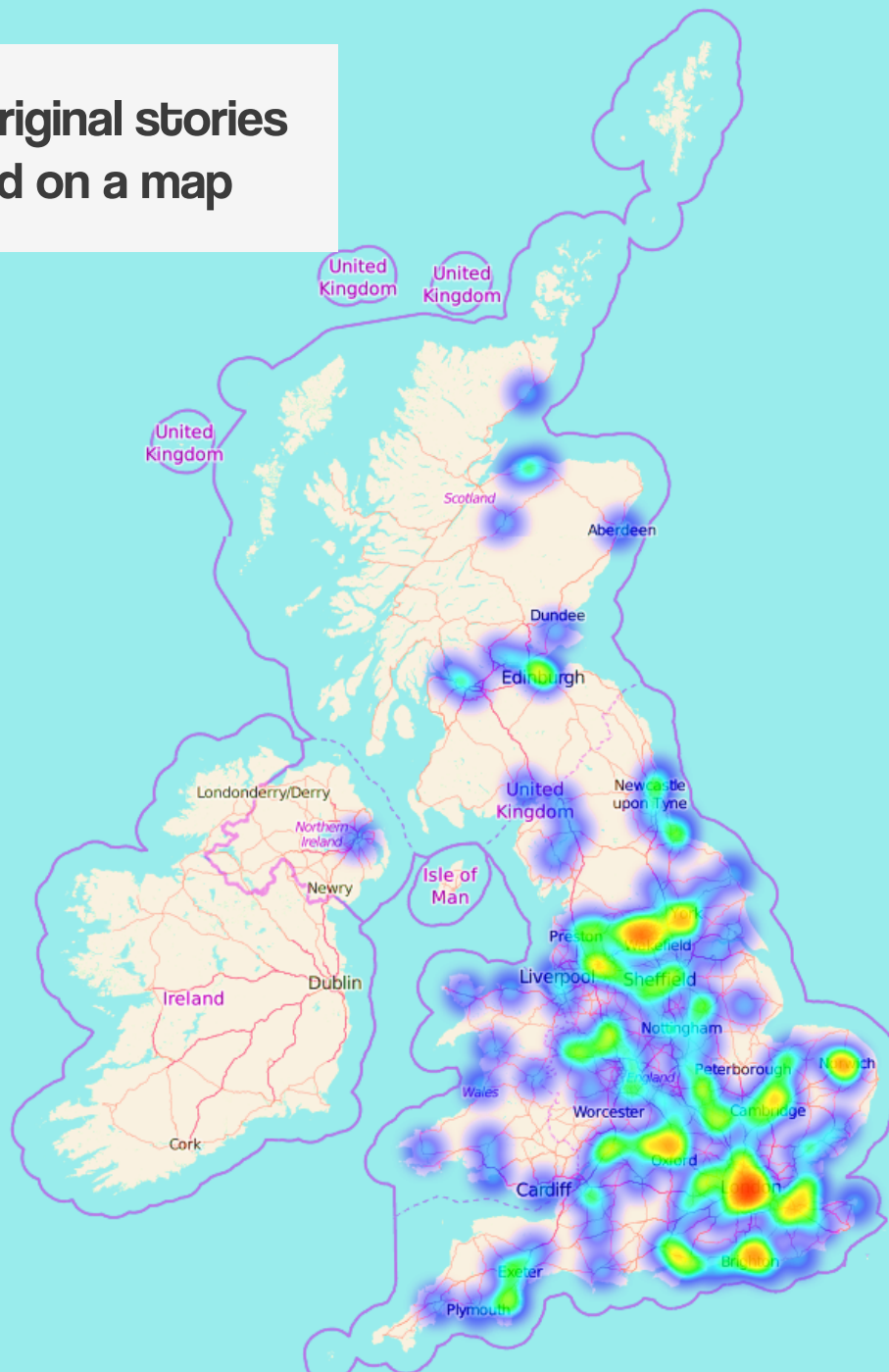




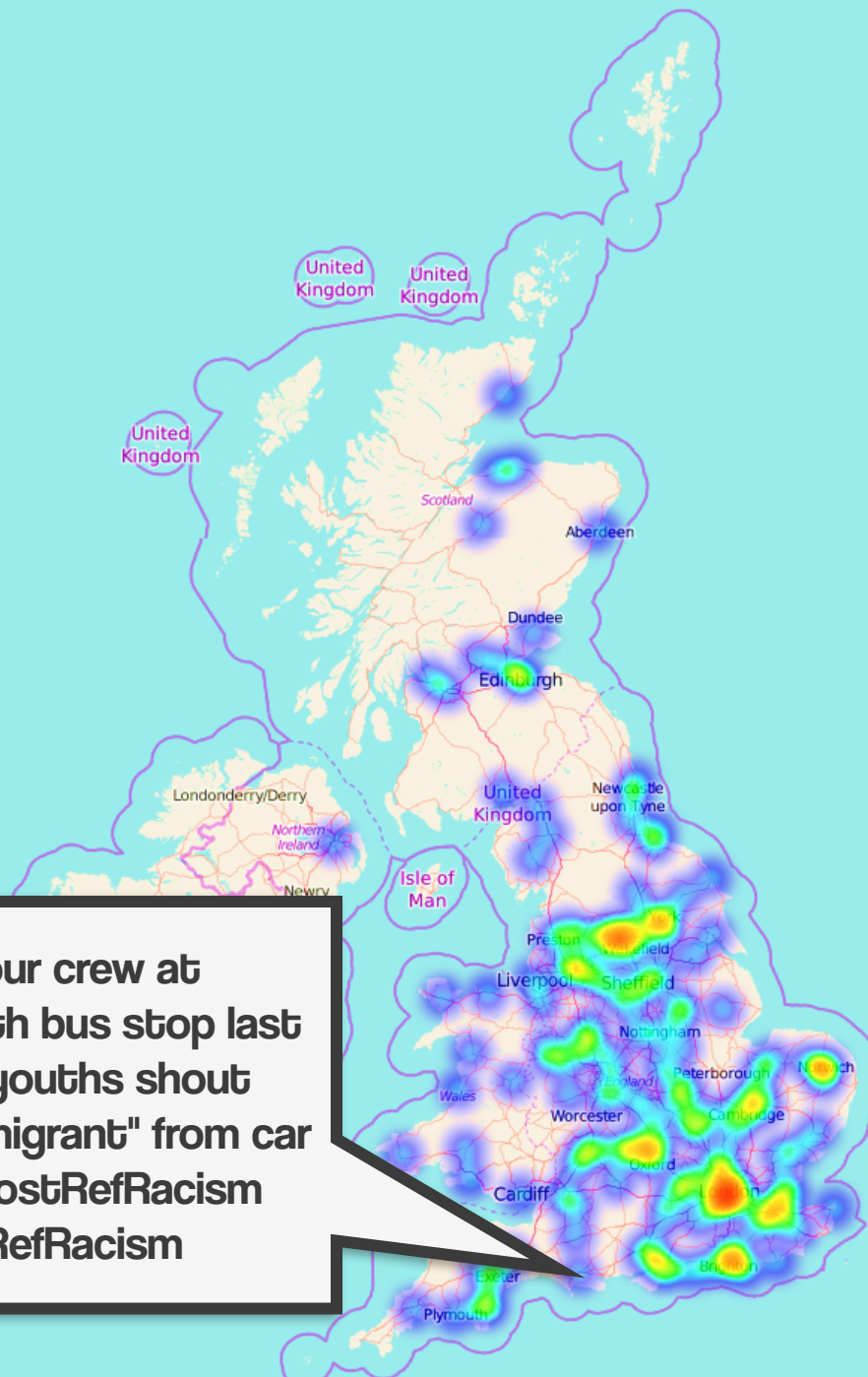




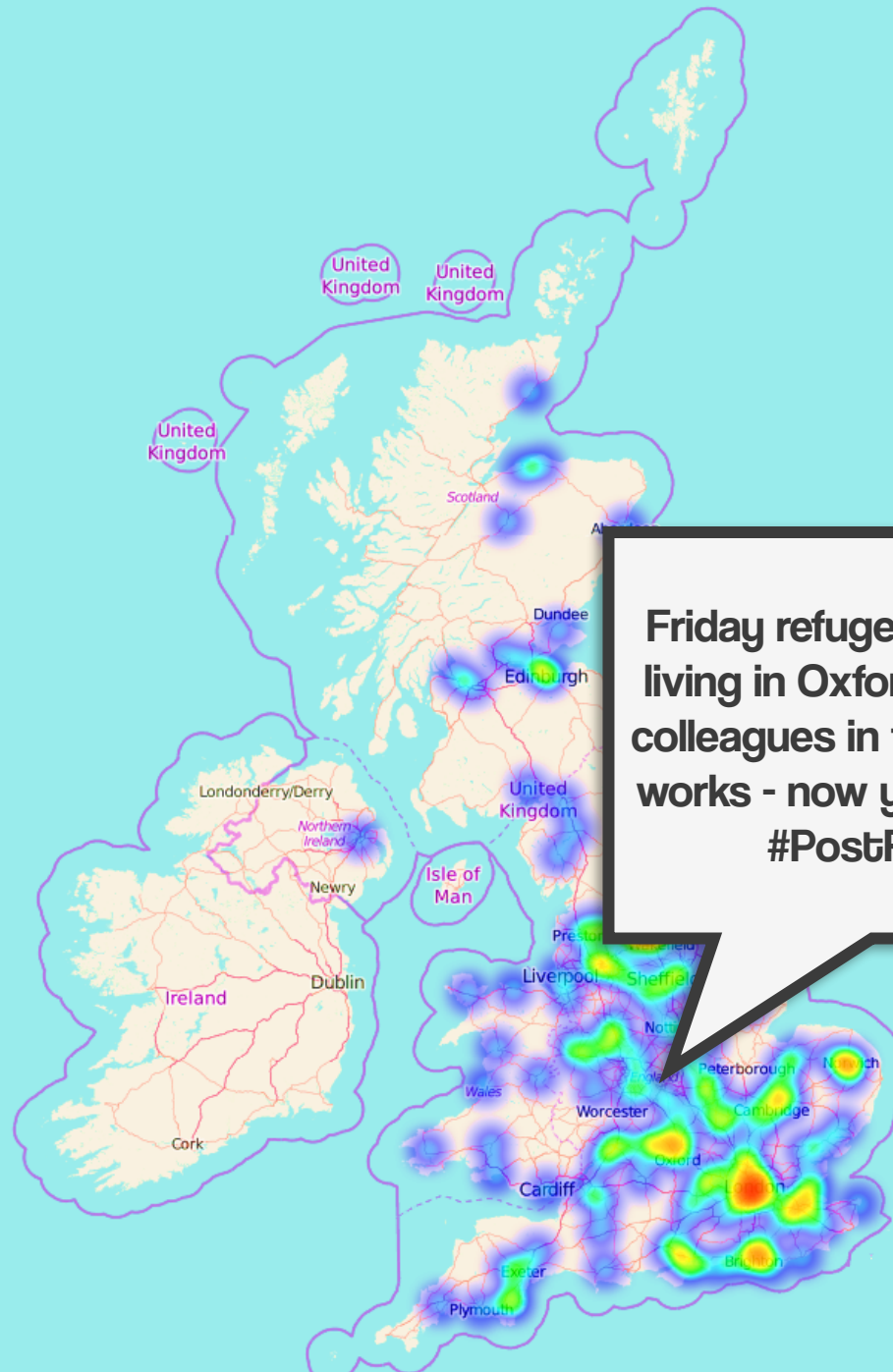
**936 of the 2,413 original stories  
could be placed on a map**



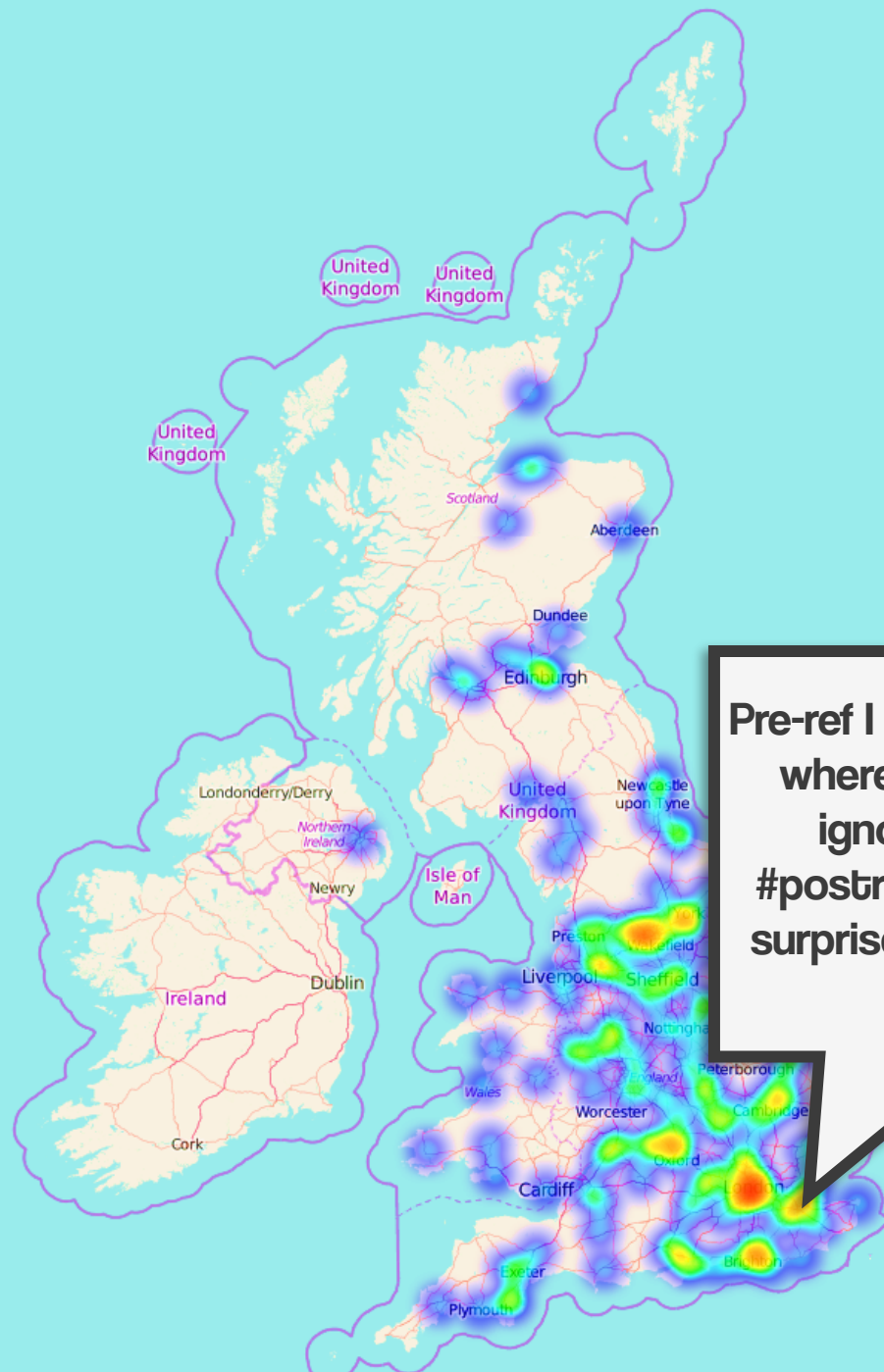
One of our crew at  
#Bournemouth bus stop last  
night had youths shout  
"F\*\*\*\*ing immigrant" from car  
window. #PostRefRacism  
@PostRefRacism



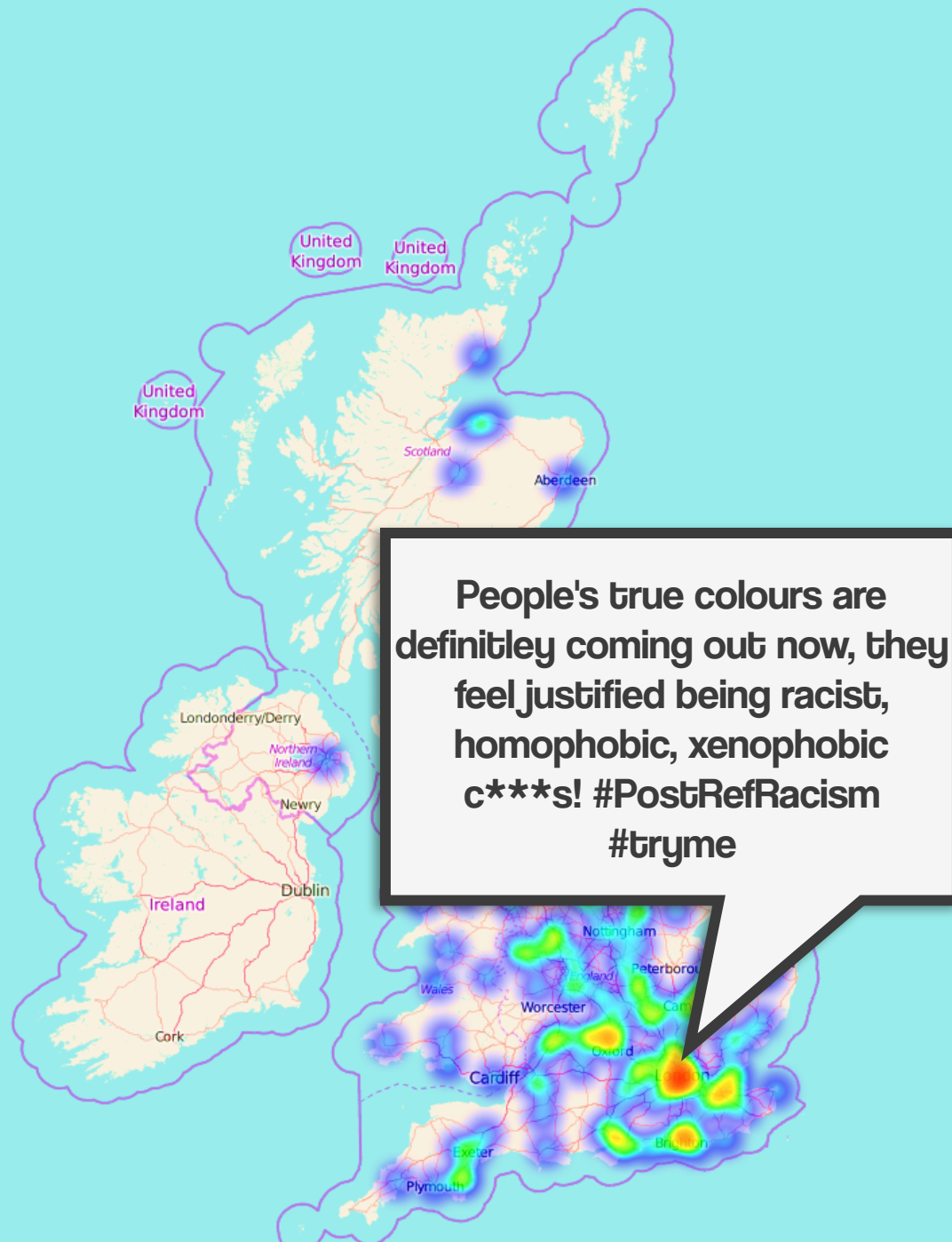




**Friday refugee British Citizen  
living in Oxford 15 yrs, told by  
colleagues in factory where he  
works - now you can go home  
#PostRefRacism**



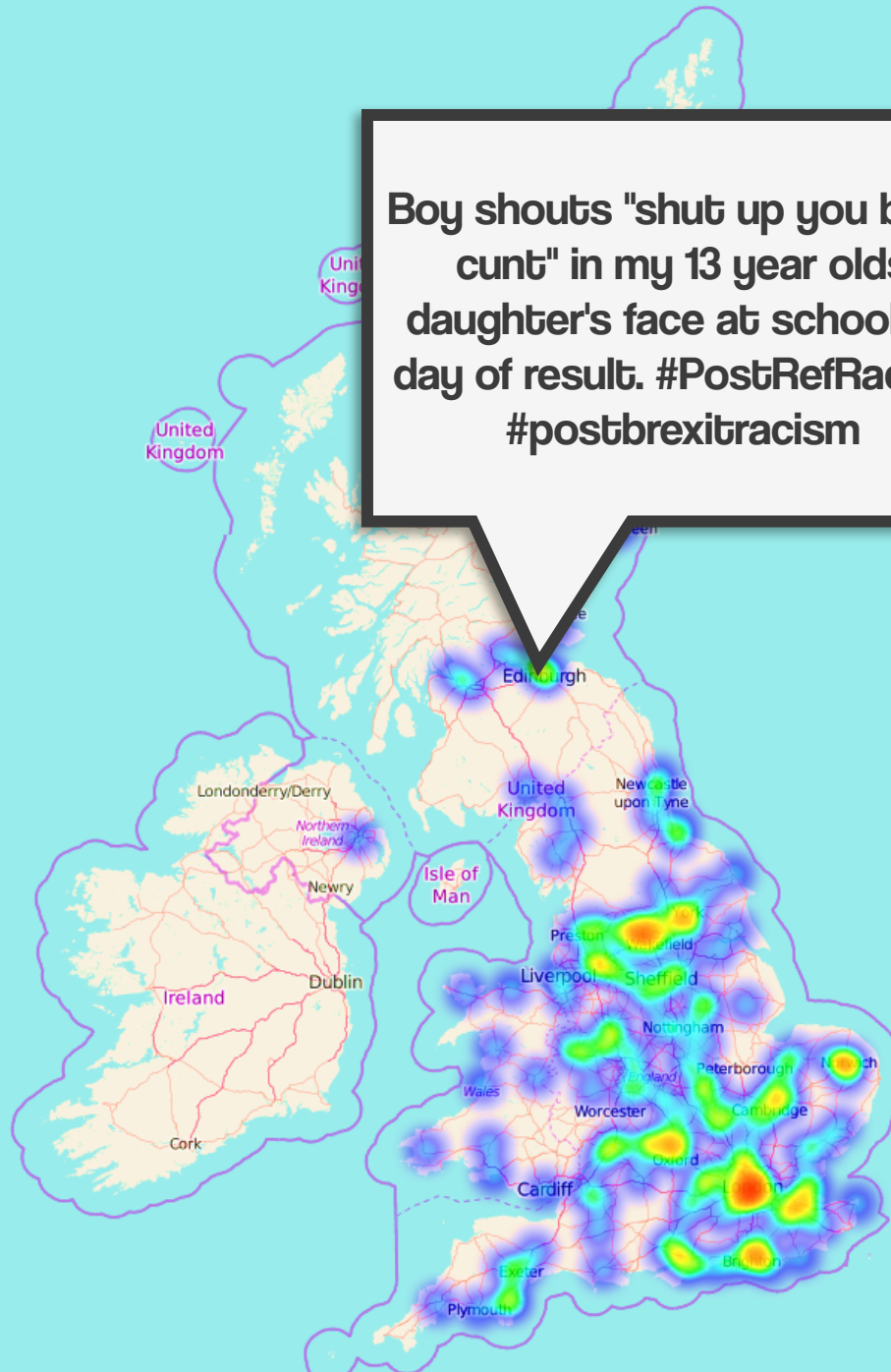
**Pre-ref I was told to go back to  
where I was born by some  
ignoramus I work with  
#postrefracism comes as no  
surprise really. Shame on you  
UK.**

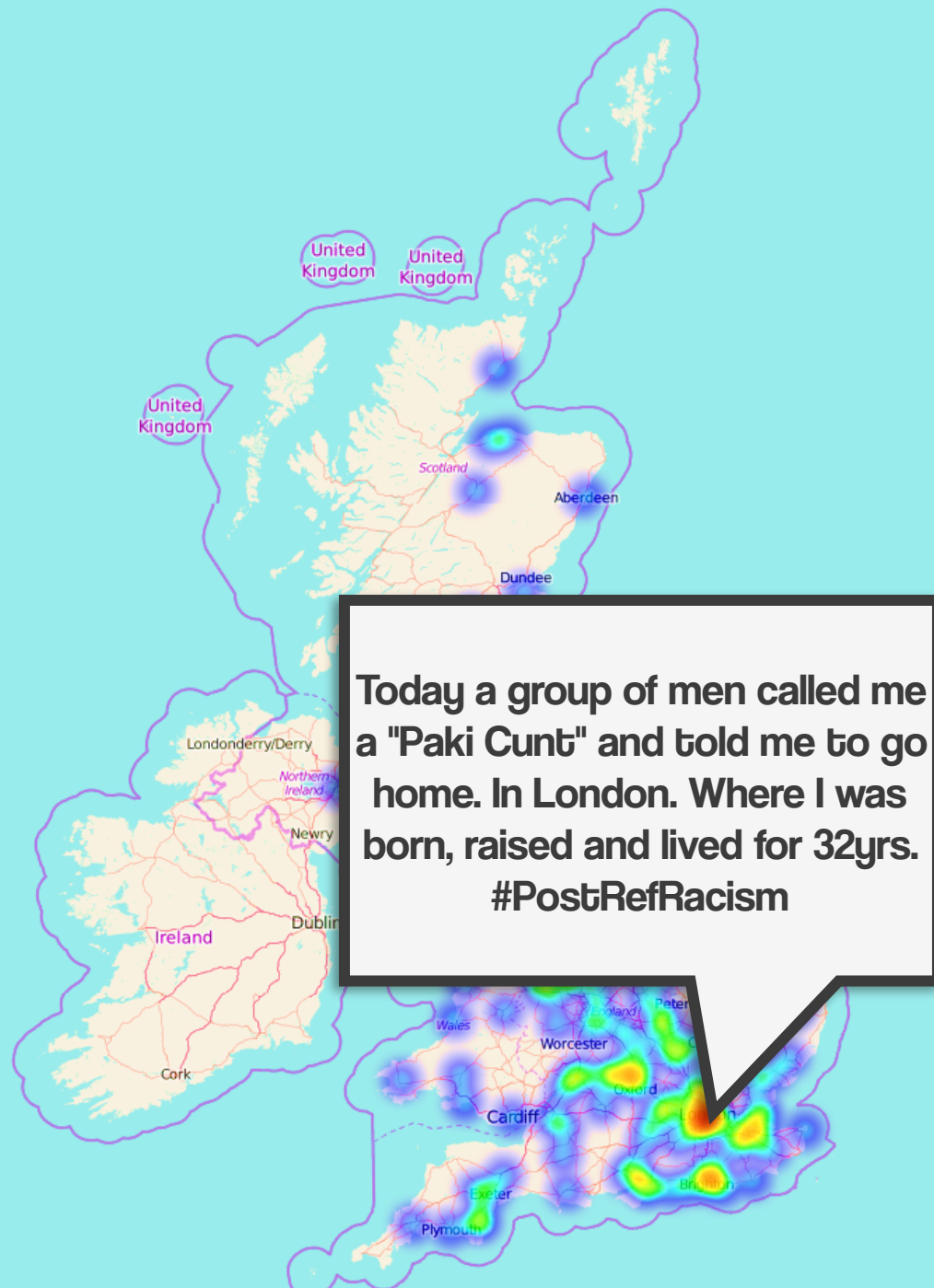


**So much hate!!! It's all fun &  
games until you walking  
through Leeds and someone  
shouts "Oi Paki, We Voted  
Leave, Get out"  
#PostRefRacism**

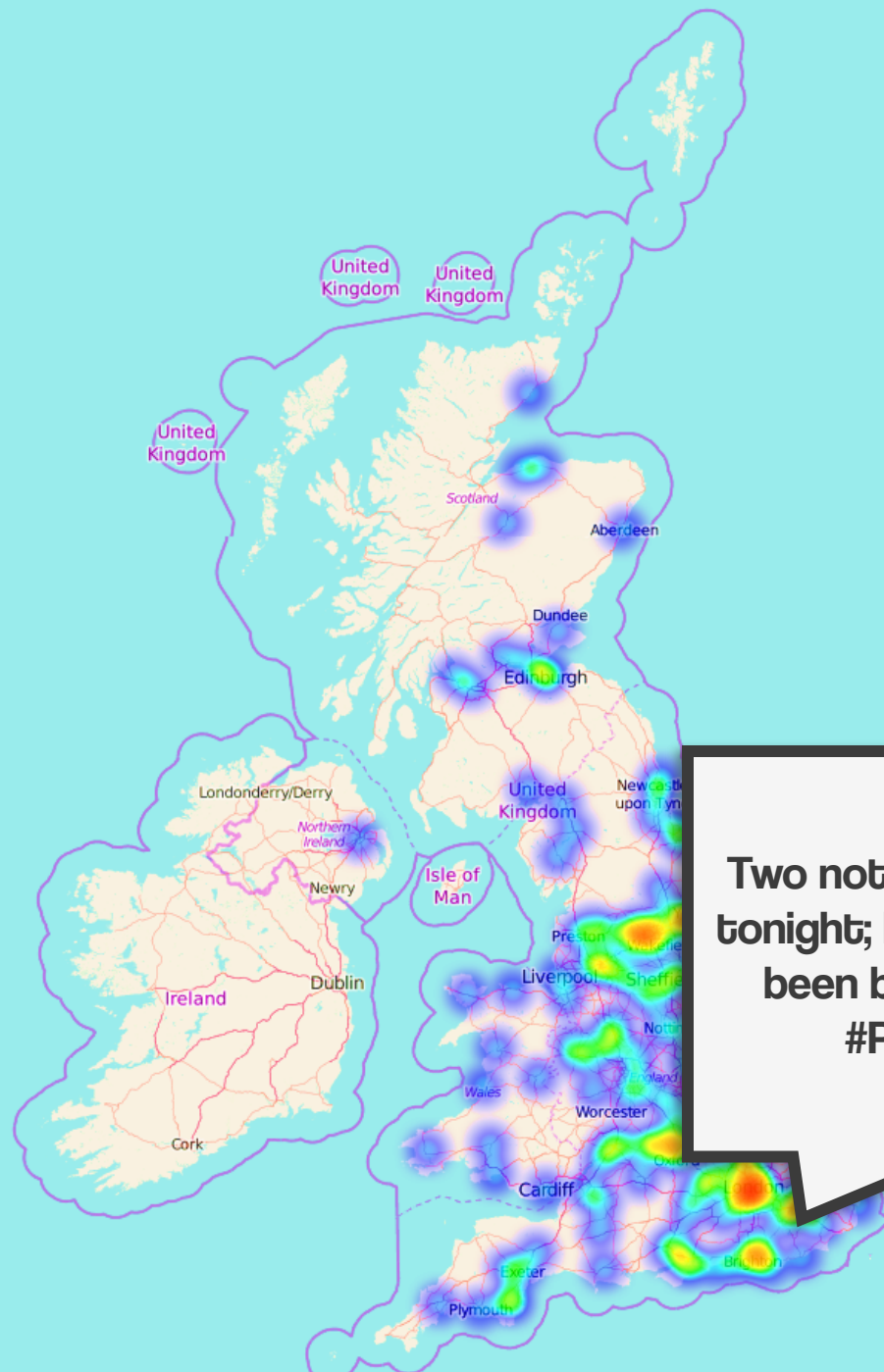


Boy shouts "shut up you black  
cunt" in my 13 year olds  
daughter's face at school on  
day of result. #PostRefRacism  
#postbrexitracism

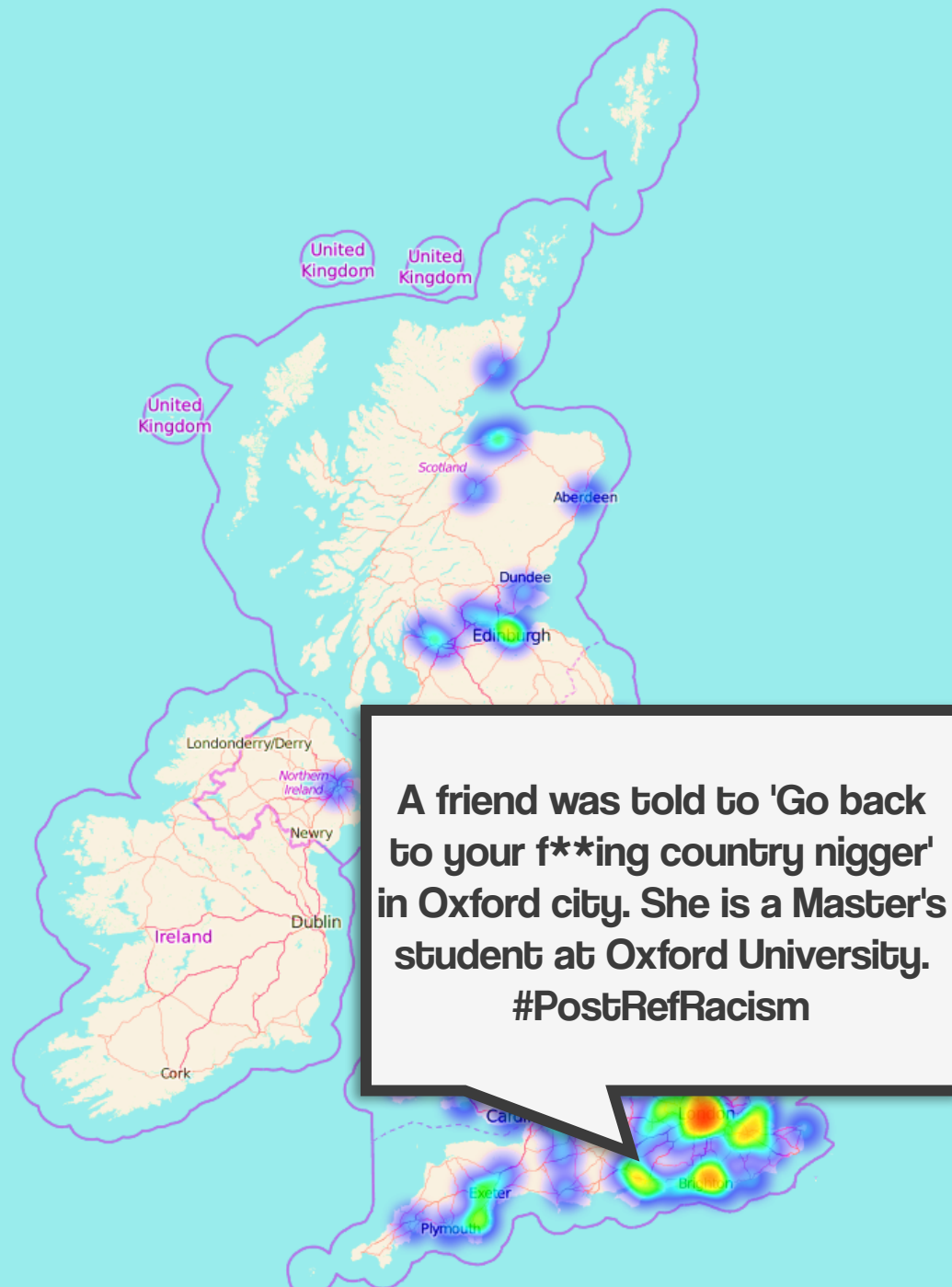




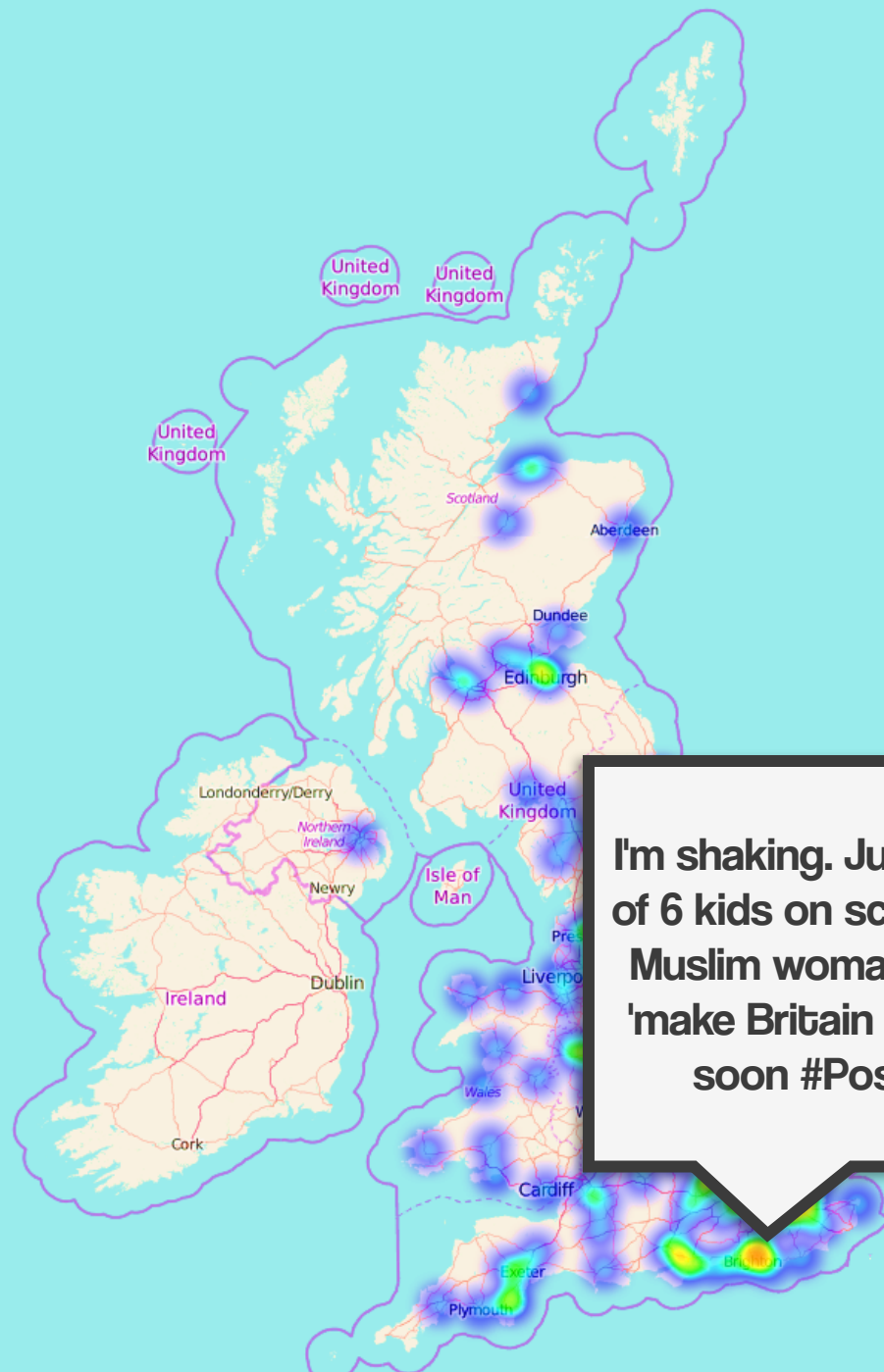




**Two notable patients in A&E  
tonight; both Romanian, both  
been beaten up by yobs.  
#PostRefRacism**







**I'm shaking. Just seen a group of 6 kids on scooters circling a Muslim woman and shouting 'make Britain Great again'.pic soon #PostRefRacism**



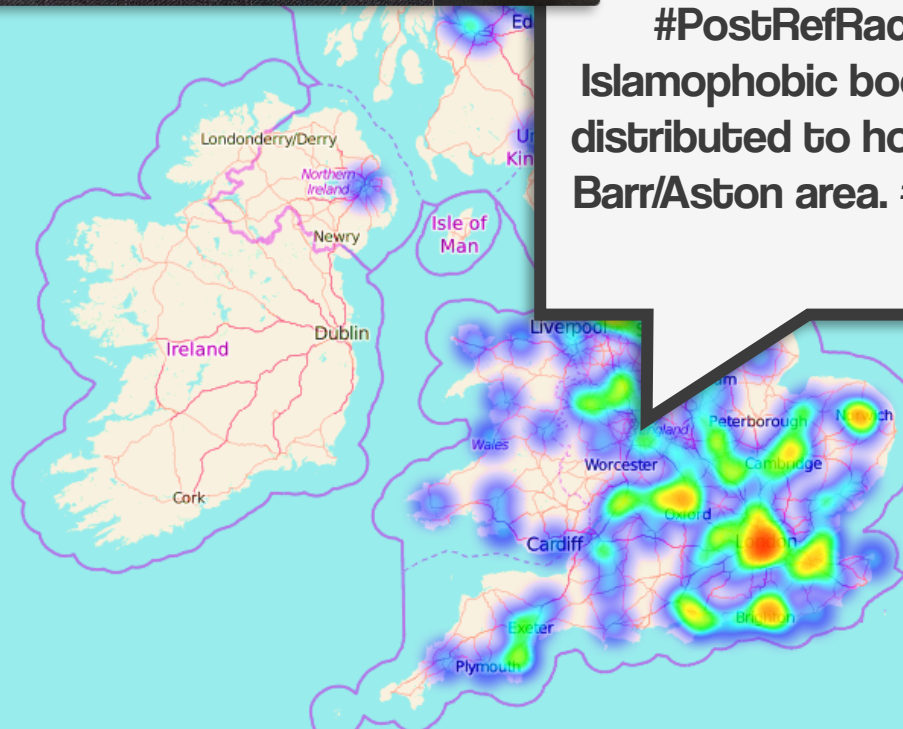


Congradulations to you and also to Daniel York and to Anna Chen for helping us in winning the Brexit vote, Mr McGregor! I am sure you know you get a ferry from Harwich to Rotterdam, in Holland, the Netherlands! Happy to buy one for you, or do you want one for Hong Kong instead?! From an old friend from Yorkshire! :) :P

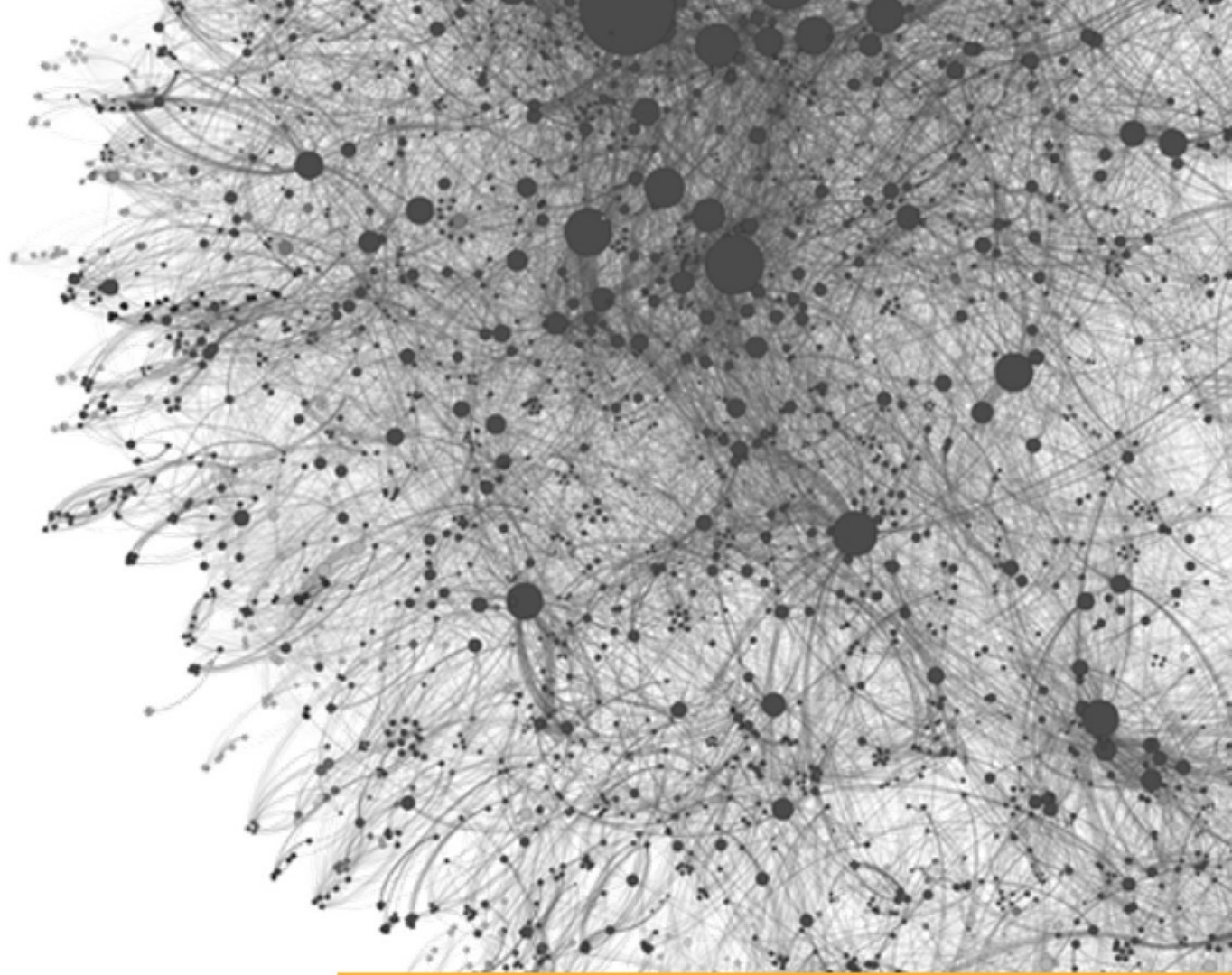
**And so it begins. Just received this text from a number I don't recognise #PostRefRacism**



**#PostRefRacism- Vile  
Islamophobic booklets being  
distributed to homes in Perry  
Barr/Aston area. #Birmingham**







# CASM

The Centre for  
the Analysis of  
Social Media

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