

Brexit

The Digital Aftermath

DEMOS



Research conducted for Channel4 Dispatches: Racist Britain

Carl Miller
Francesca Arcostanzo
Josh Smith
Alex Krasodomski-Jones
Susann Wiedlitzka
Rooham Jamali
Jack Dale

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.

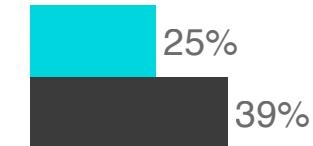
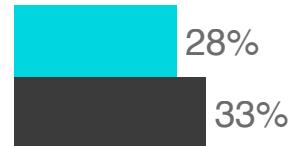
In the run up to the vote,
Leave campaigners (who
each sent 5+ pro-Brexit
Tweets) sent **97,000**
Tweets, pro-Remain sent
13,000

immigration was one of
the three key themes of
the campaign

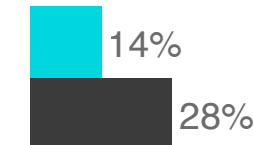
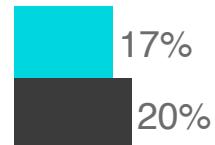
20th May-26th May

27th May-2nd June

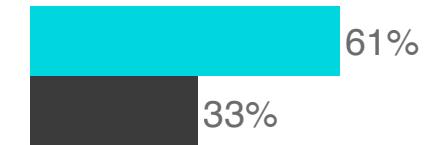
Sovereignty



Immigration



Economy



Leave



Remain



*Algorithm: 70%
accurate*

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

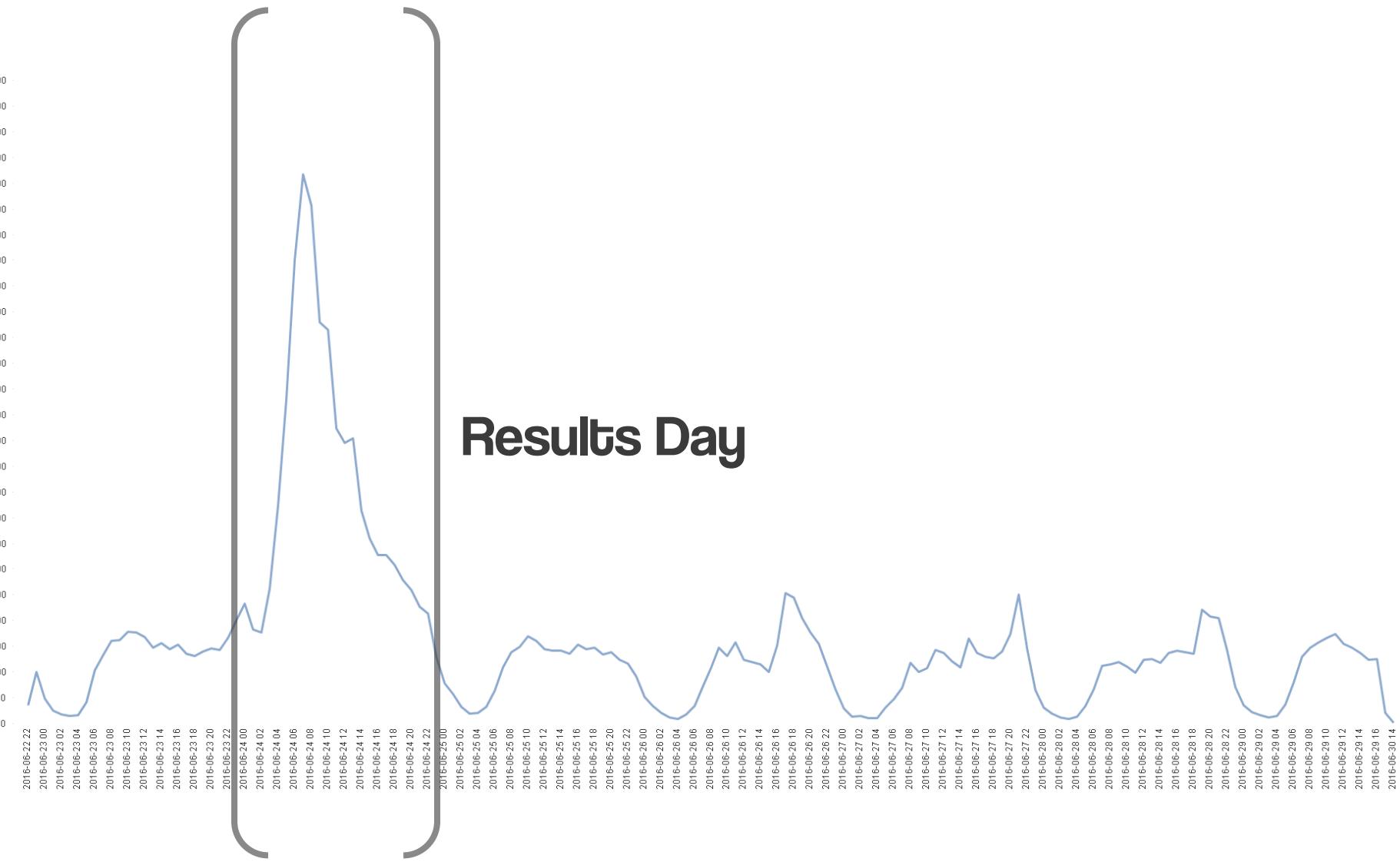
**258,553
tweets**

22nd June-30th June

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

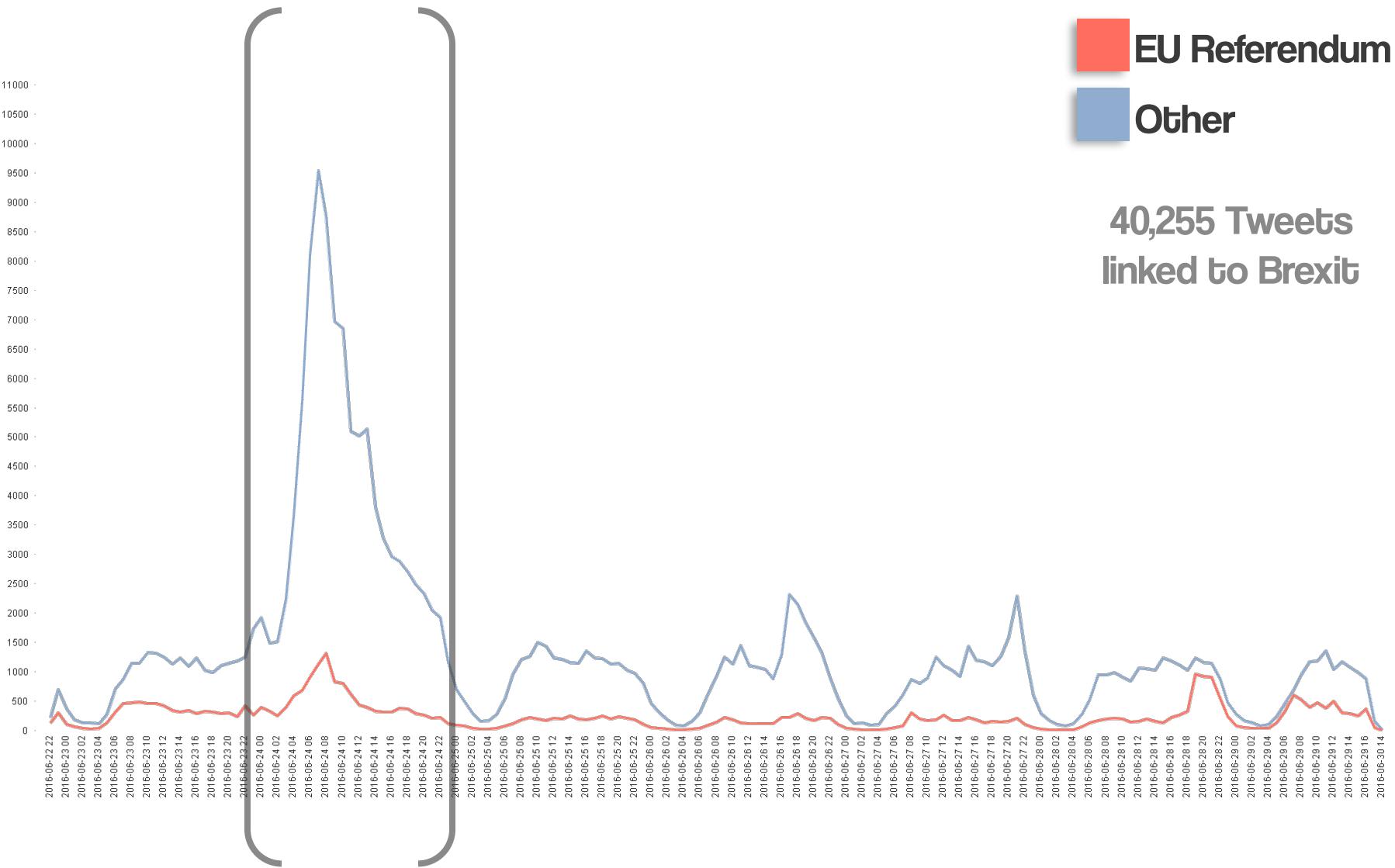
Discussions of Immigration Peaked over Brexit

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

SafetyPin (1,434)

Out (698)

Deport (686)

(im)migrants

Solidarity (501)

Bloody (415)

Welcome (98)

Leave (662)

2. Xenophobia



**16,151
tweets**

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

19th June – 1st July

16,151 tweets

(Likely only a small
kernel of the relevant
conversation)

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

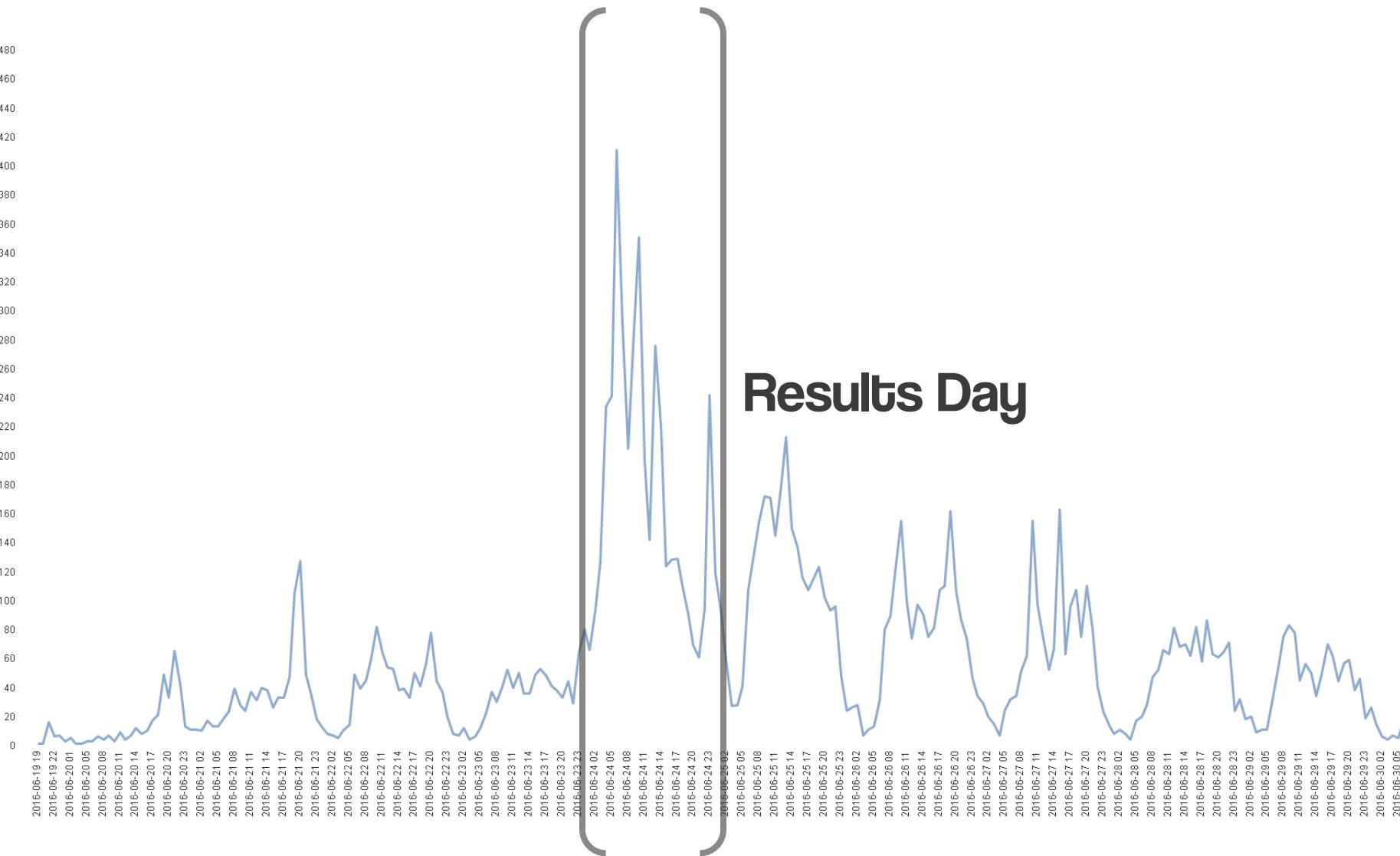
13,236 tweets

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

24th June – 1st July

Xenophobia in the Wake of the Referendum

Tweets containing Xenophobic Language over Time



But this conversation was contested.

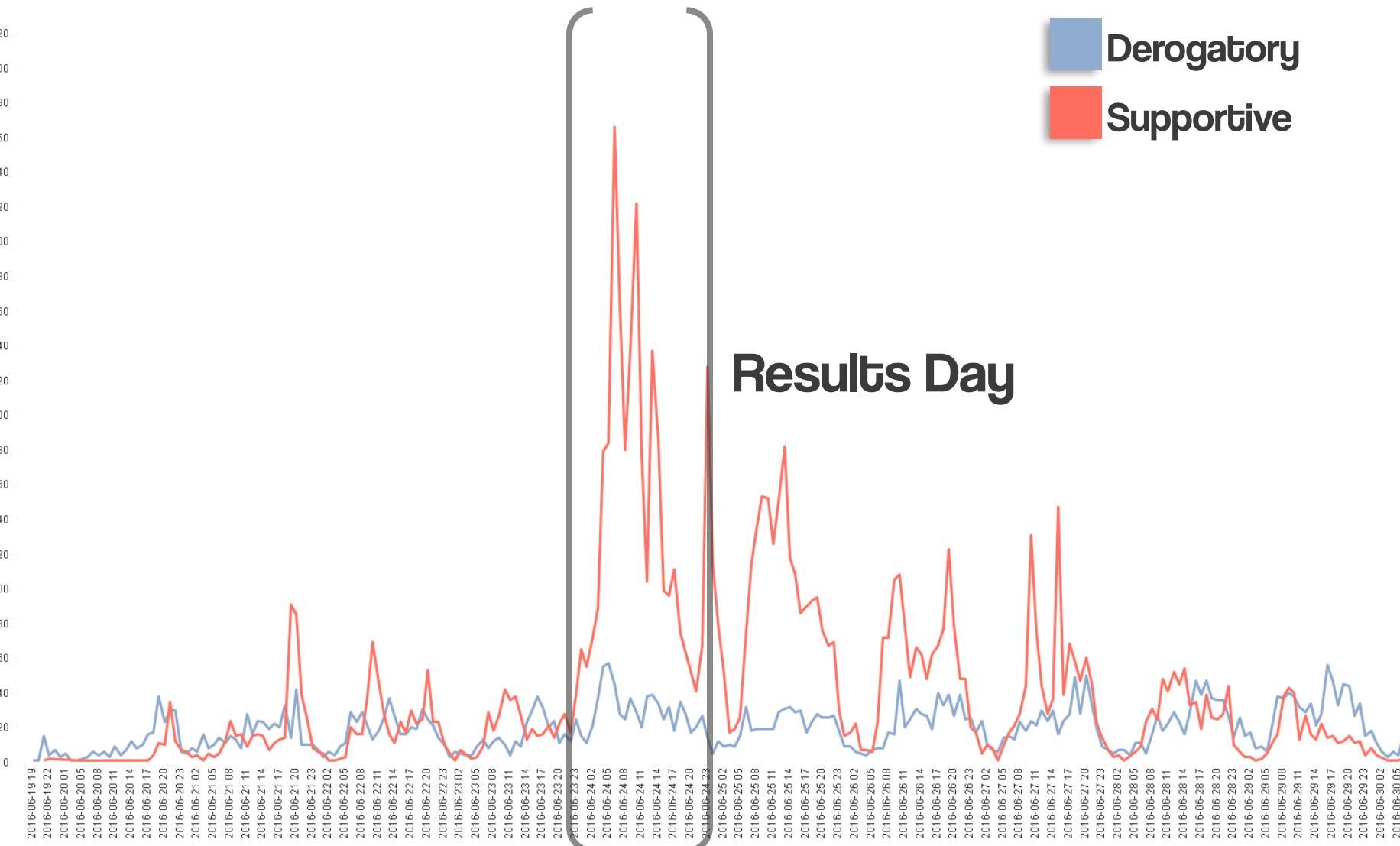
Derogatory
5,484 Tweets

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

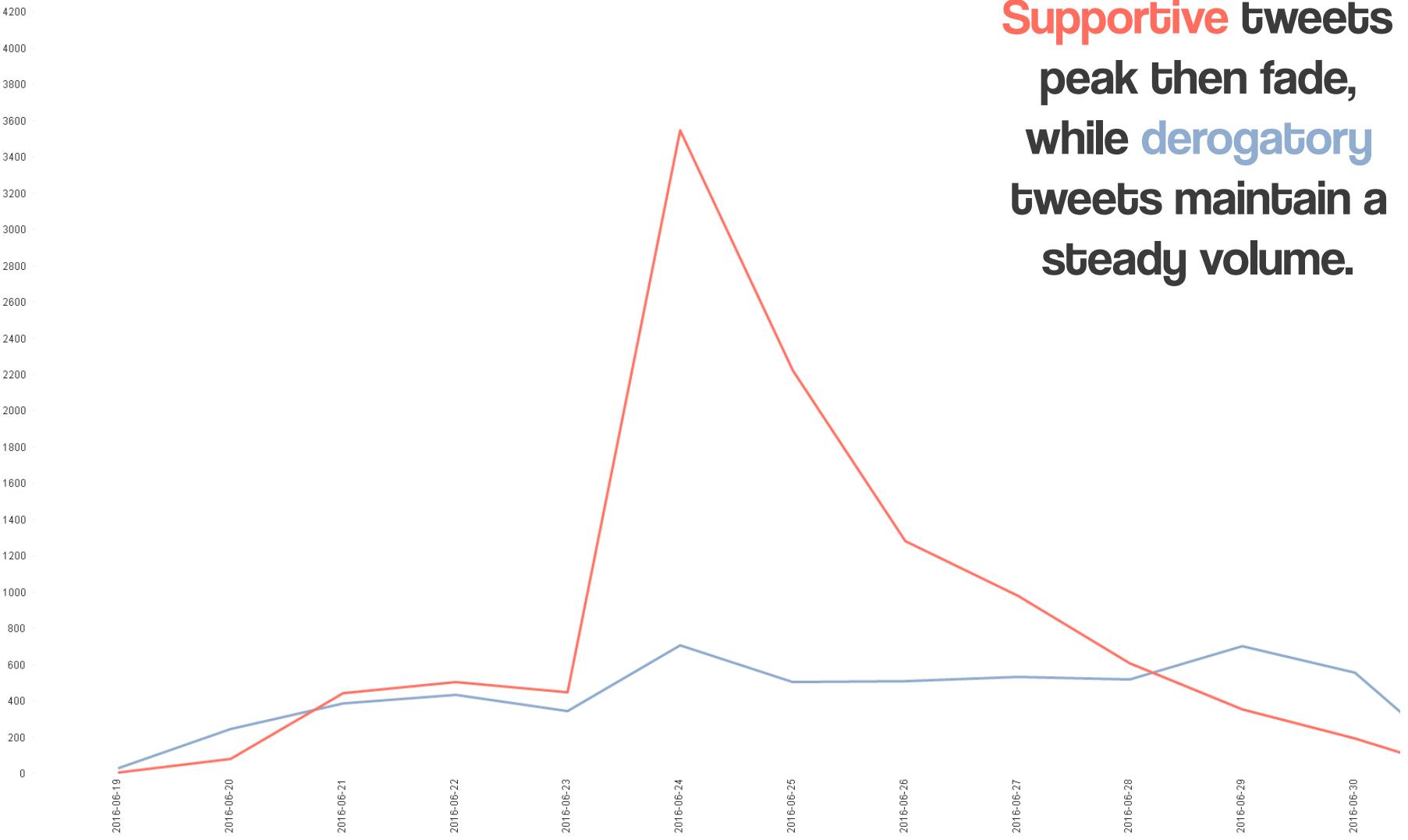
On the 25th

Derogatory
502 Tweets

Supportive
2,225 Tweets

Xenophobia in the Wake of the Referendum

Xenophobic Tweets over Time



3. Islamophobia



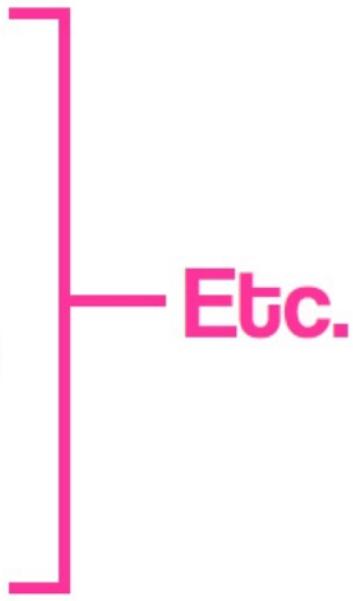
Across the world

**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



**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**

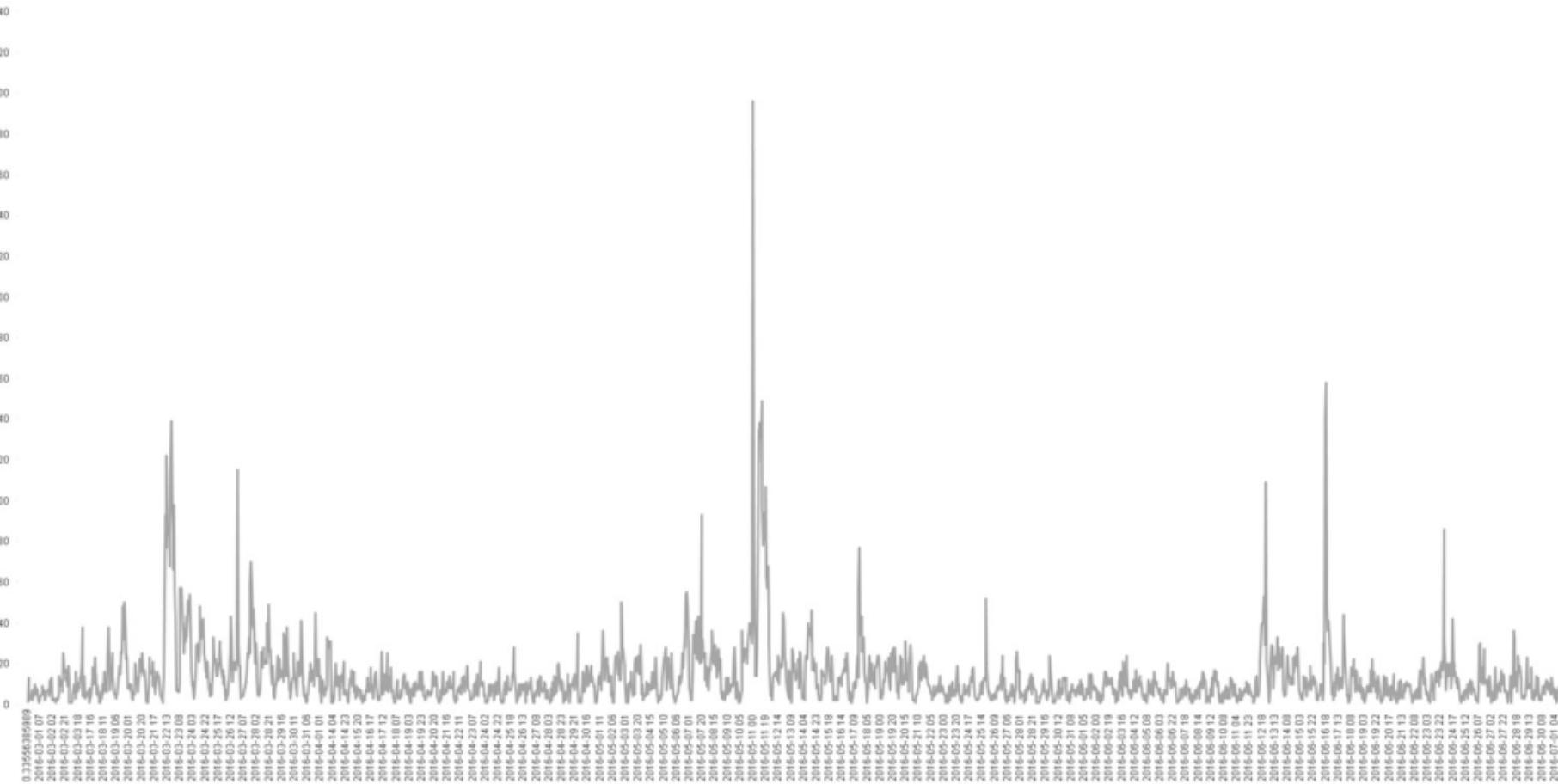
**28,034
tweets**

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

340

320

300

280

260

240

220

200

180

160

140

120

100

80

60

40

20

0



Brussels Attacks



Zayn Malik Racially Abused



Orlando Attack

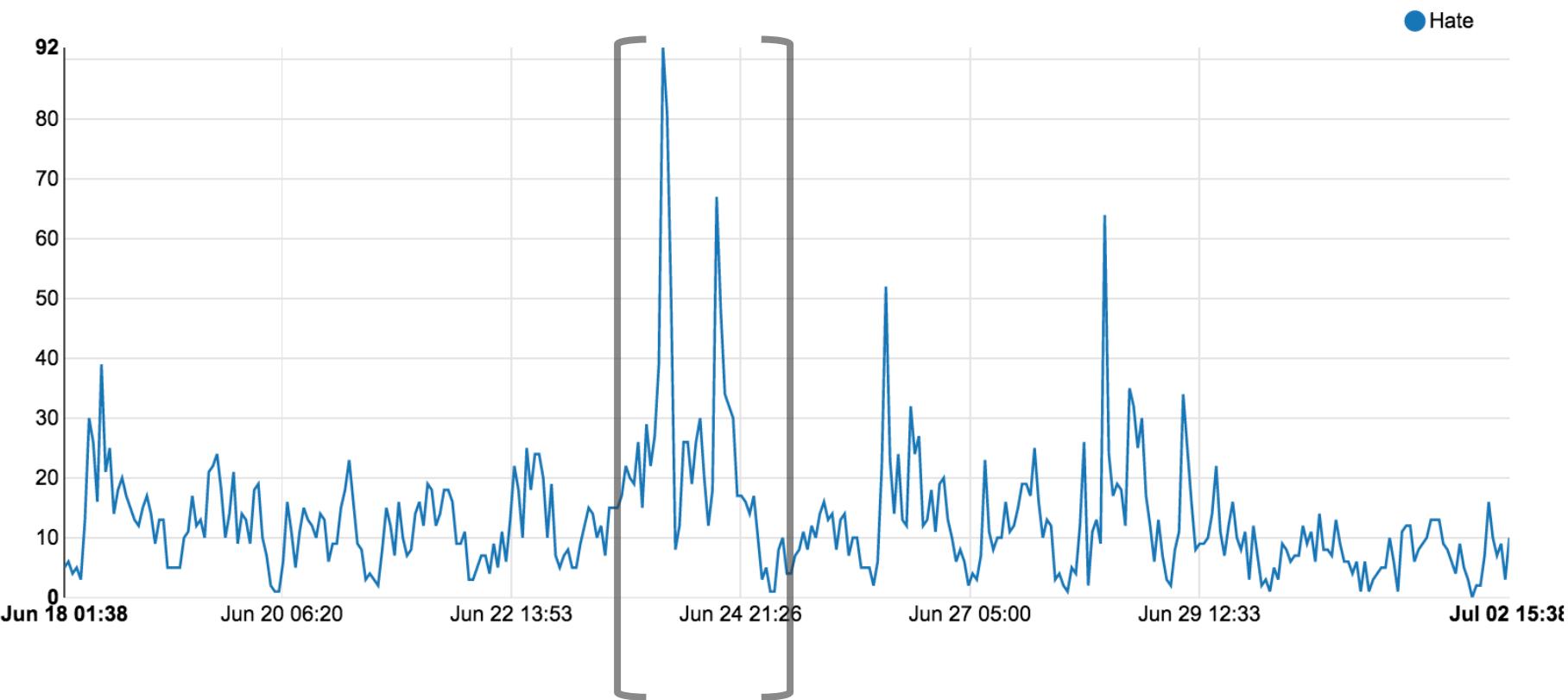


EU Referendum

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/IU7I03c1IP> 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 gonna 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 separate
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.**

#PostRefRacism

**...to raise awareness of
xenophobia and racism.**

44,003 Tweets

56,089 Tweets

From June 25nd to July 4th

98,948
tweets

were sent using either

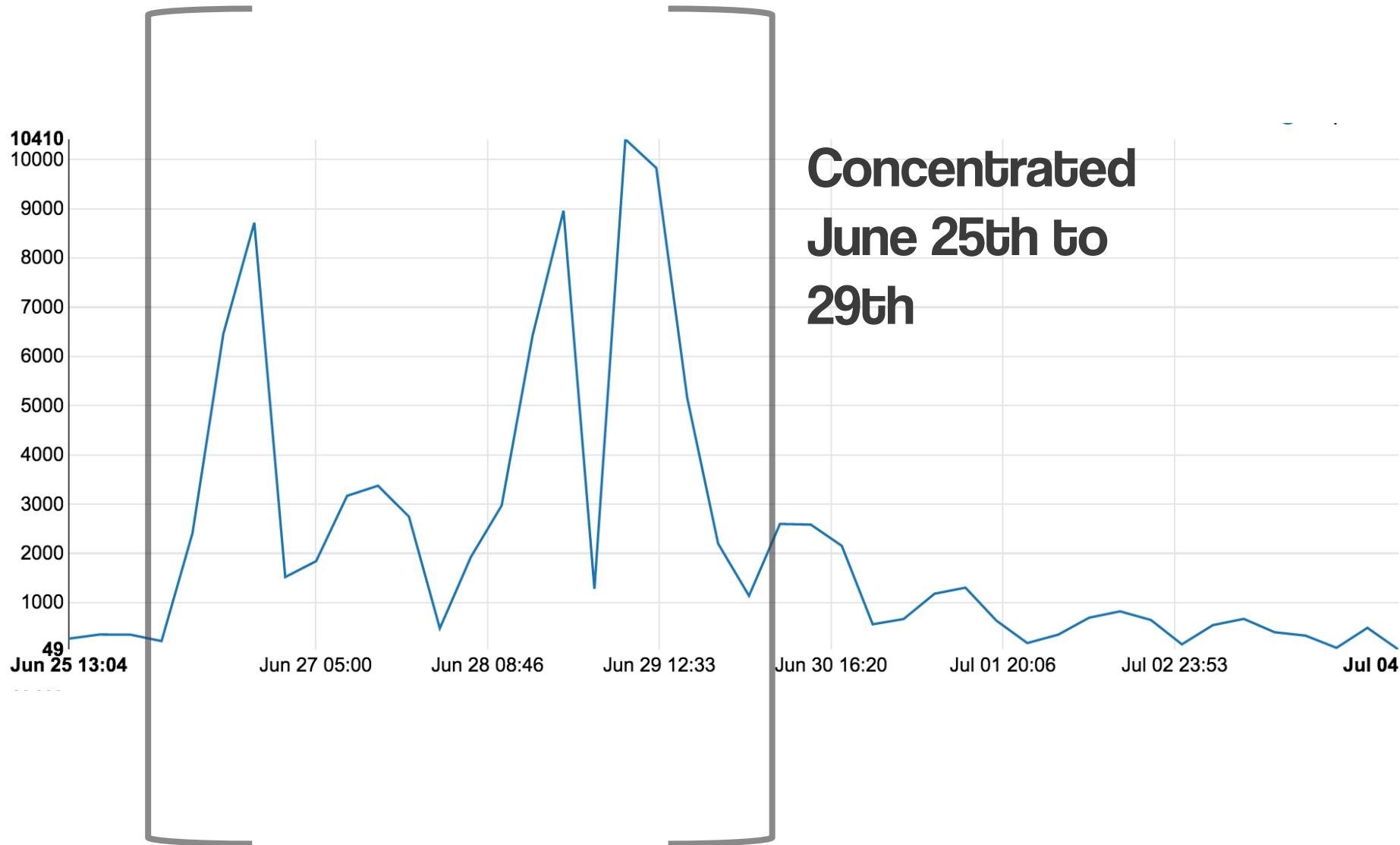
#postrefracism or

#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. . .

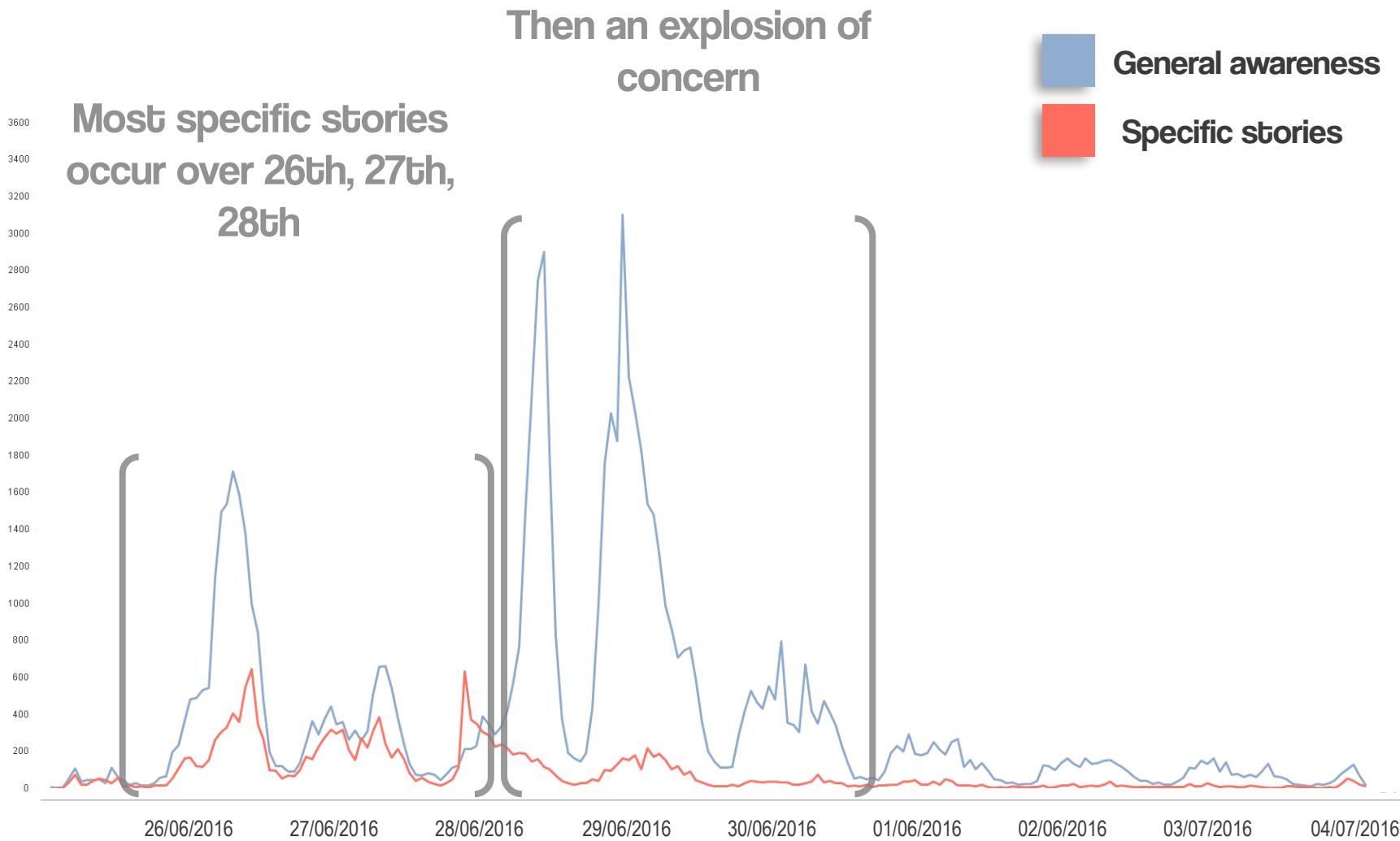
Direct accounts of harassment

Relying **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. . .

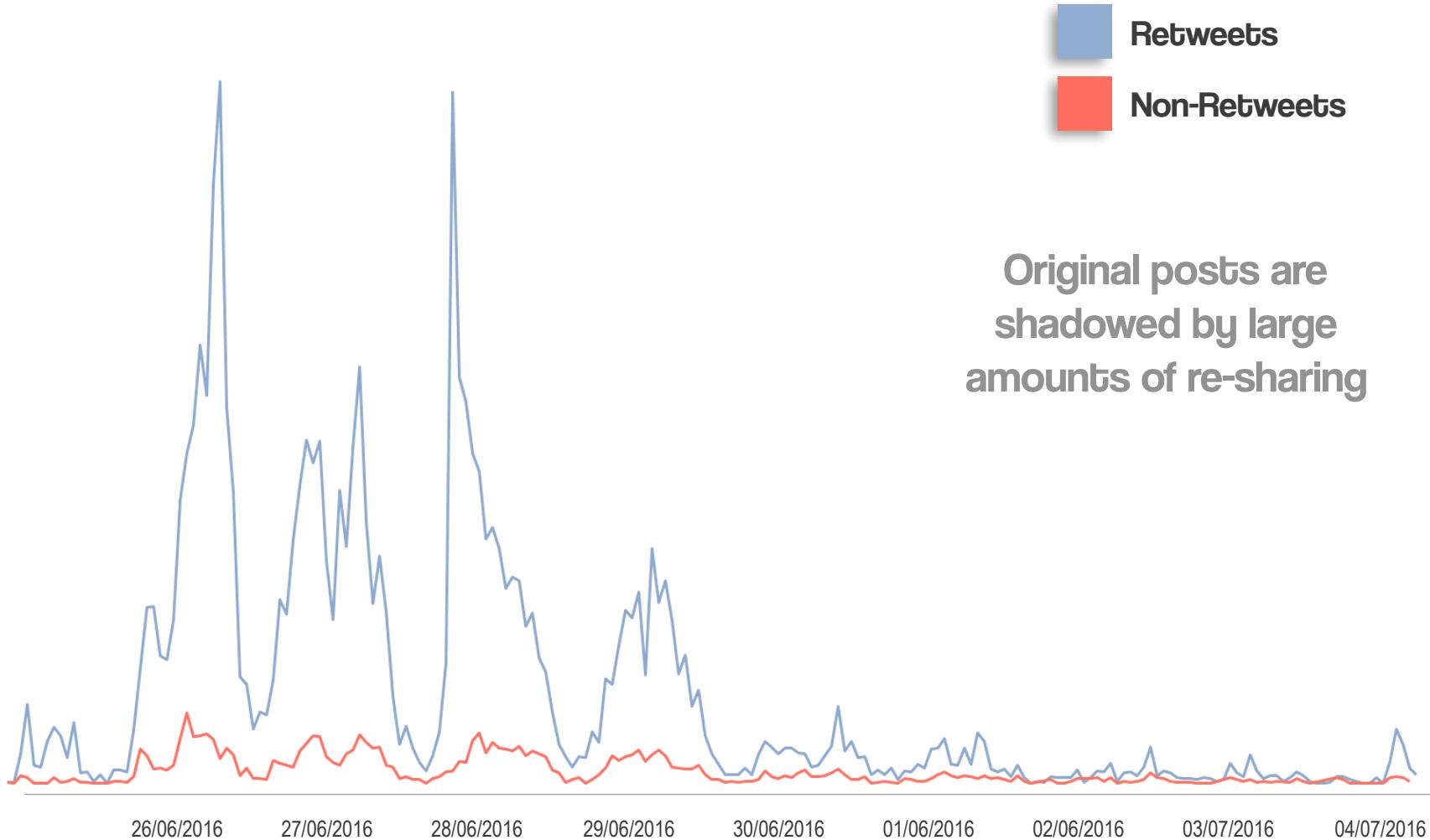
2,413 were original posts

– 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

Postrefracism

Mapping - Caveats

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**

Postrefracism

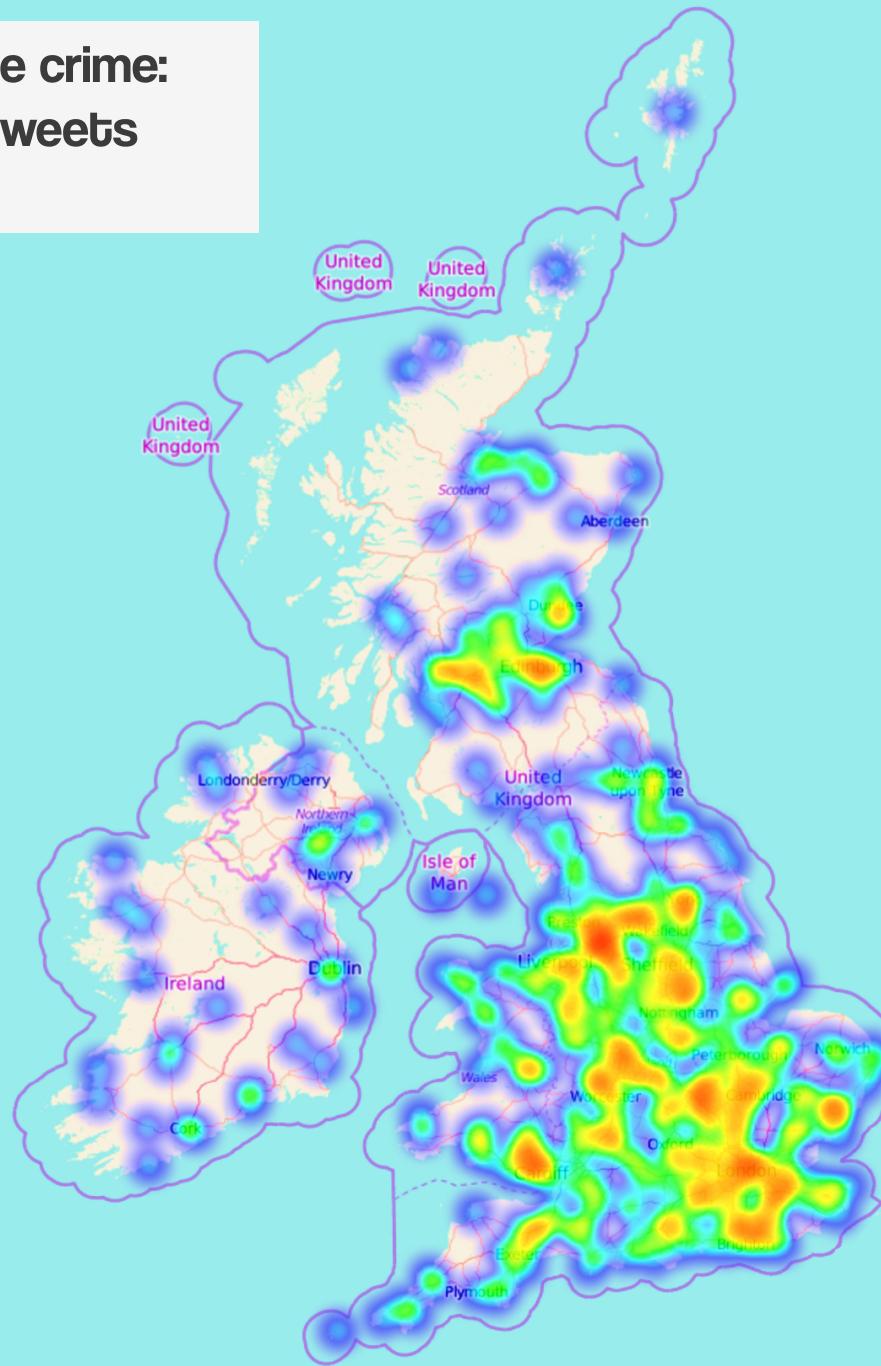
Mapping - Caveats

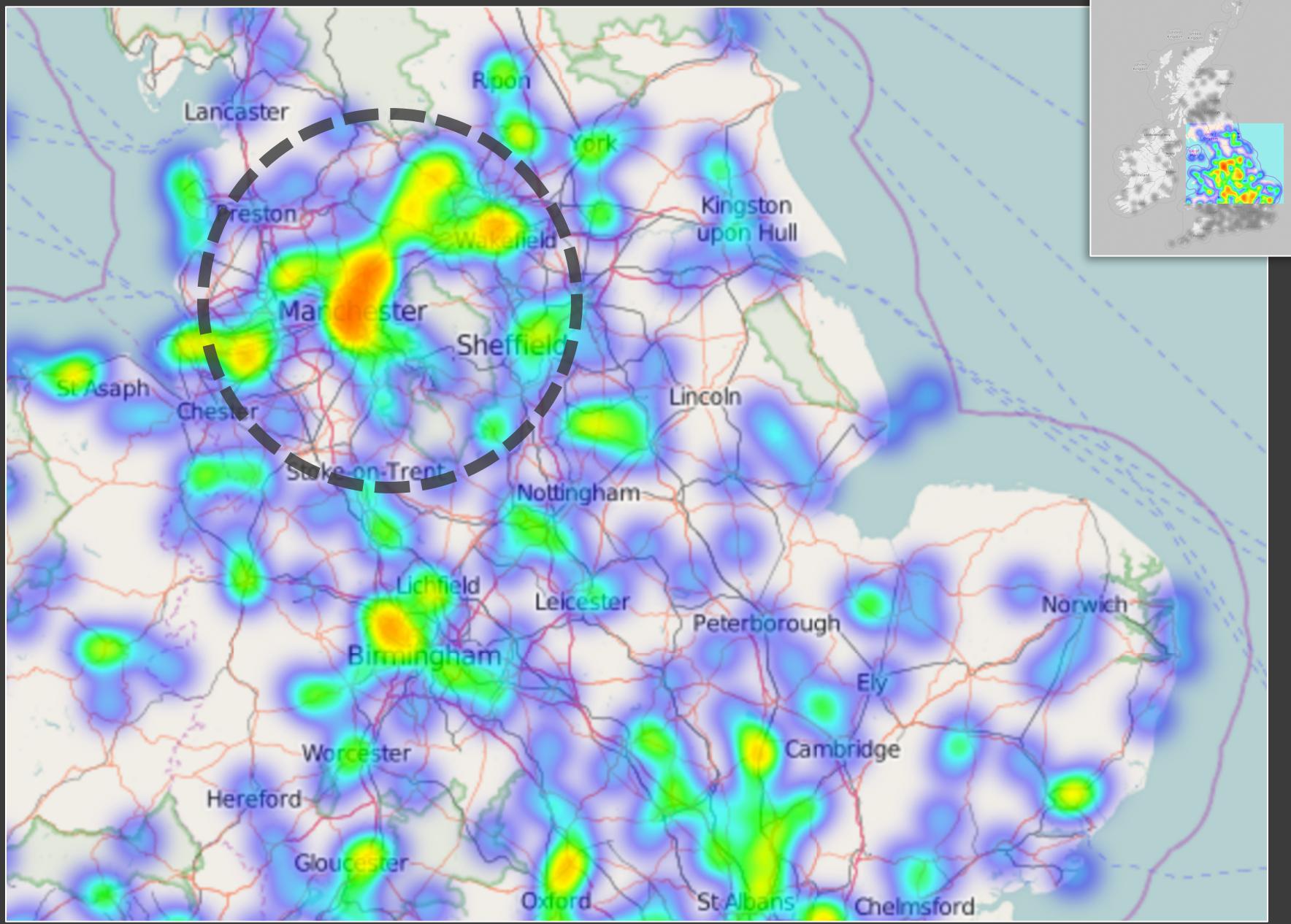
The location of the Tweet is where the incident is reported, not necessarily where it occurs

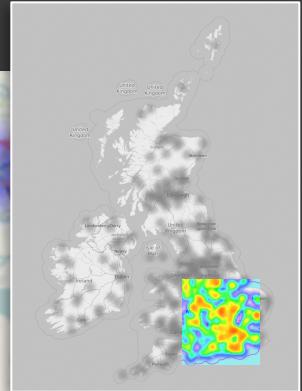
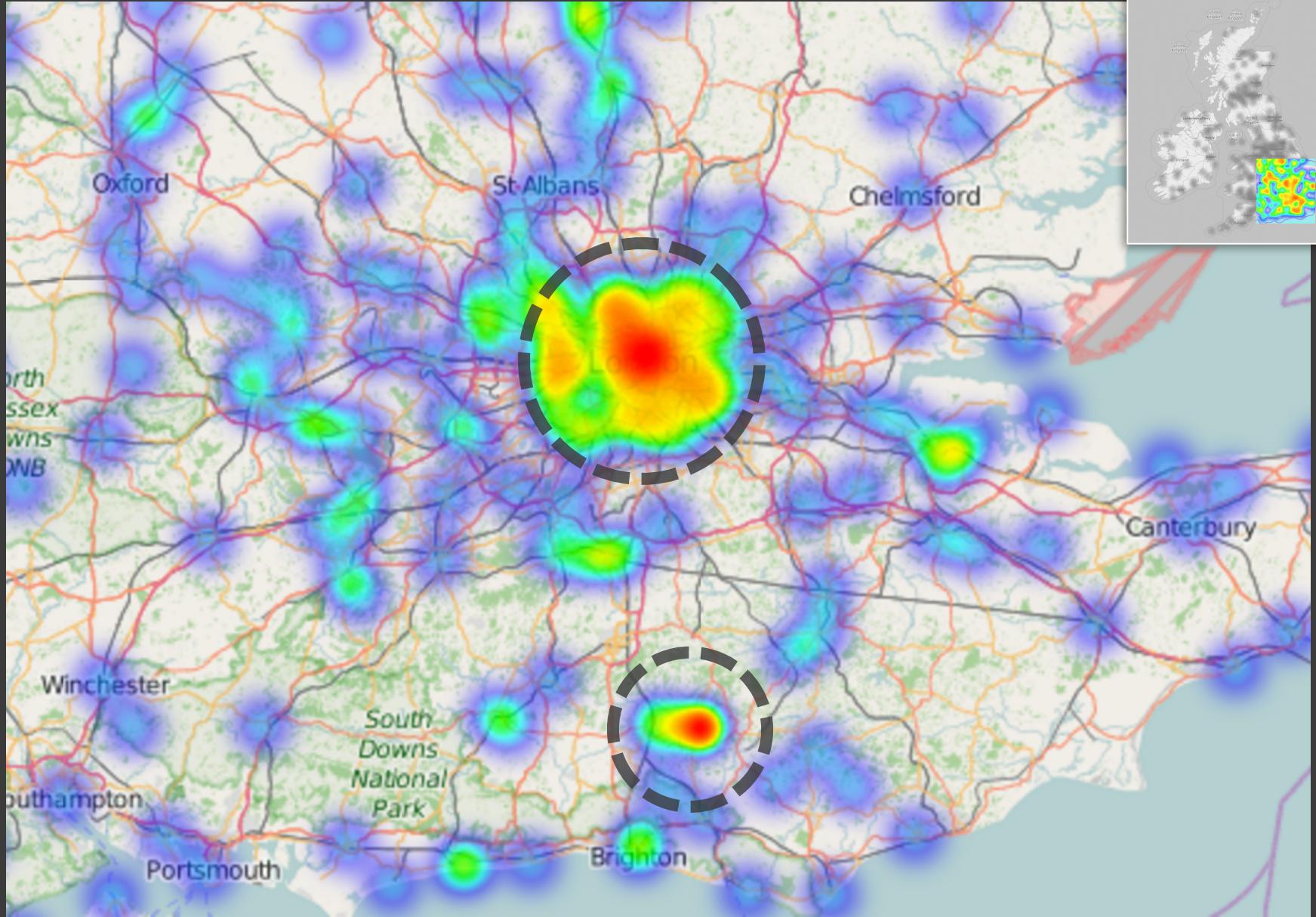
The map includes people reporting the incident

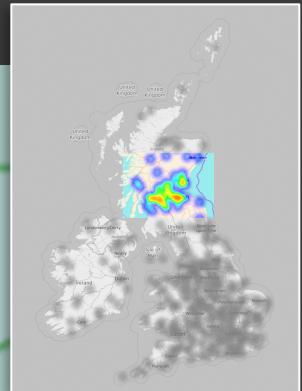
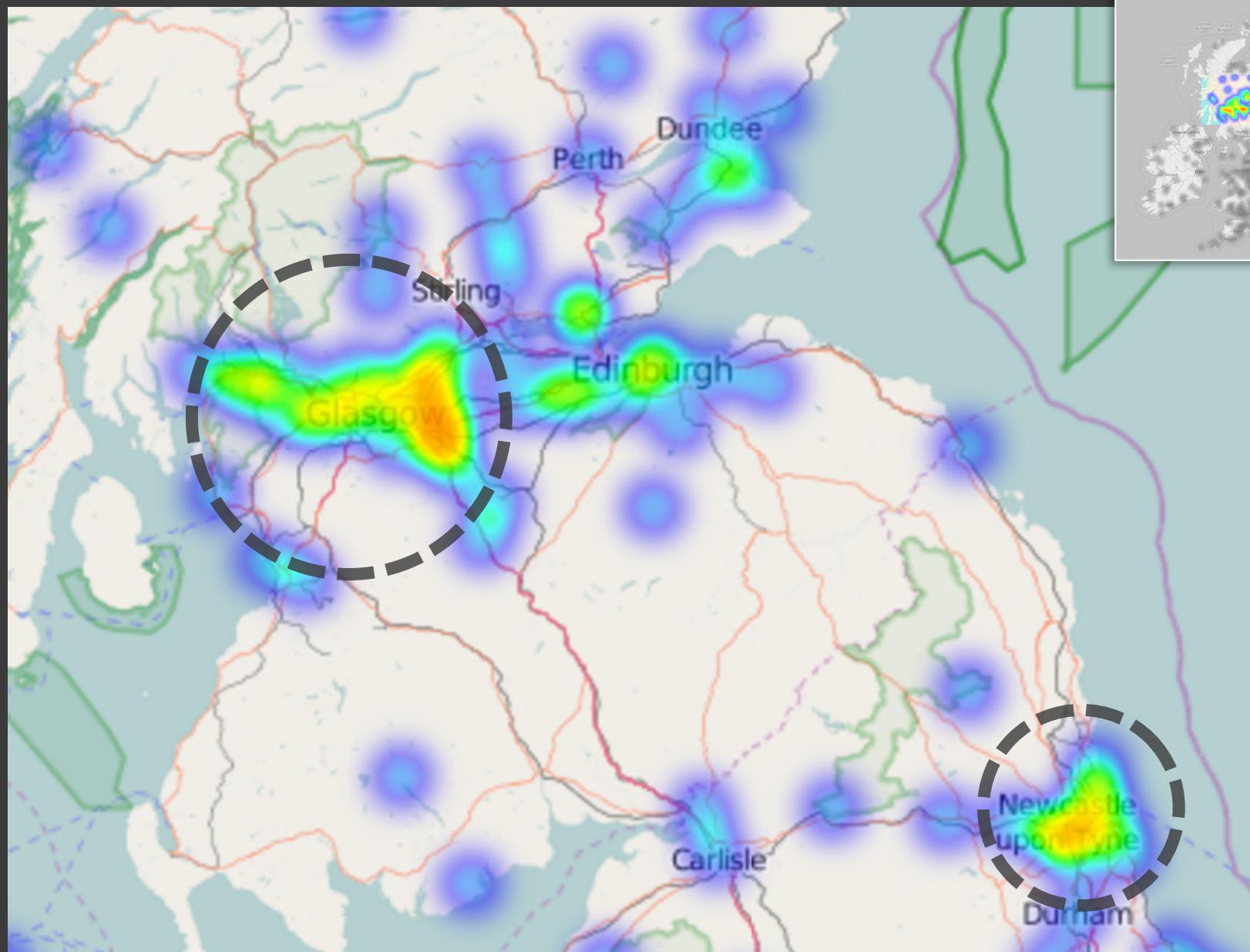
To some degree, it reflects the population density of the UK

Accounts of hate crime: original and retweets

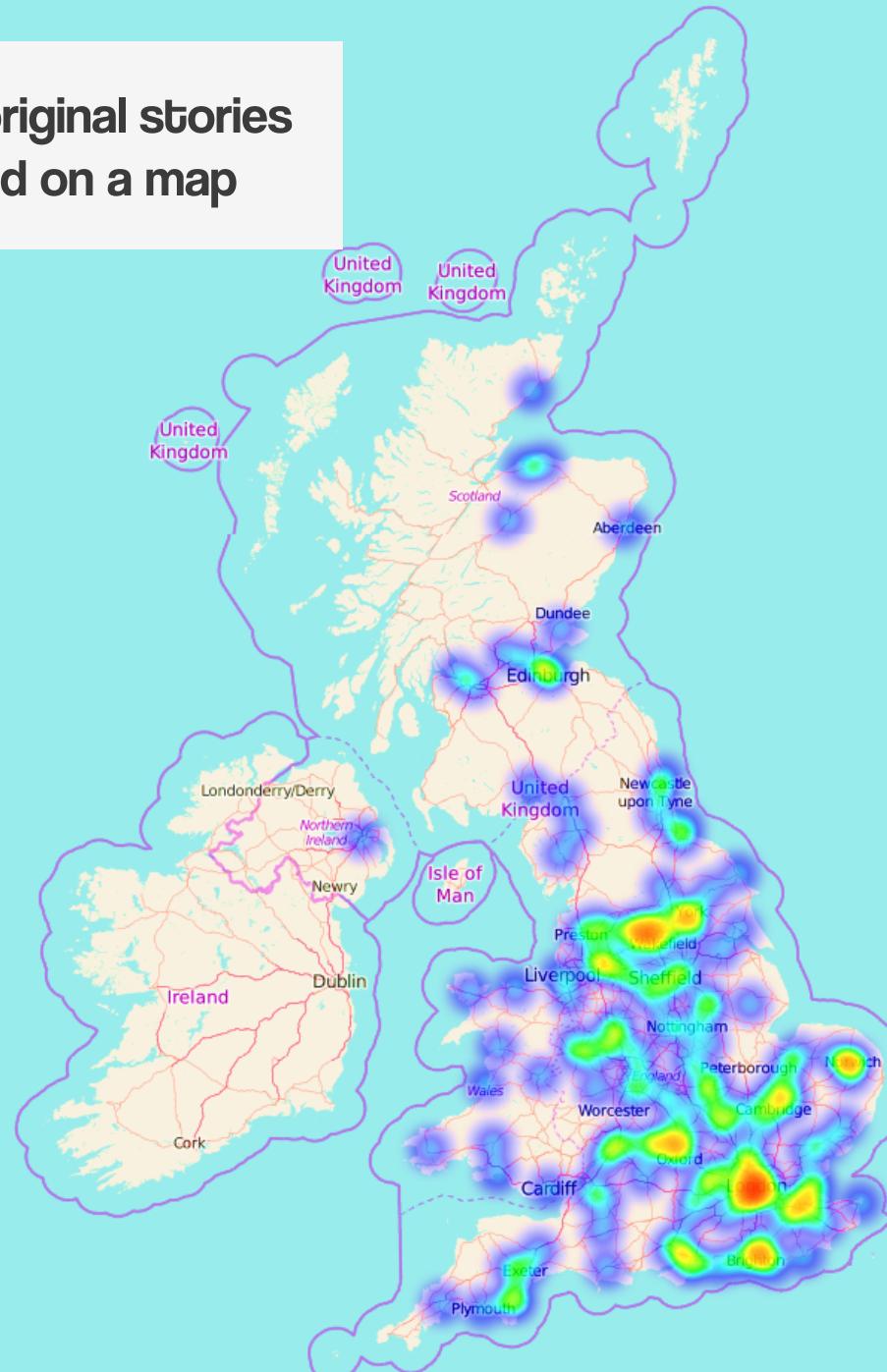




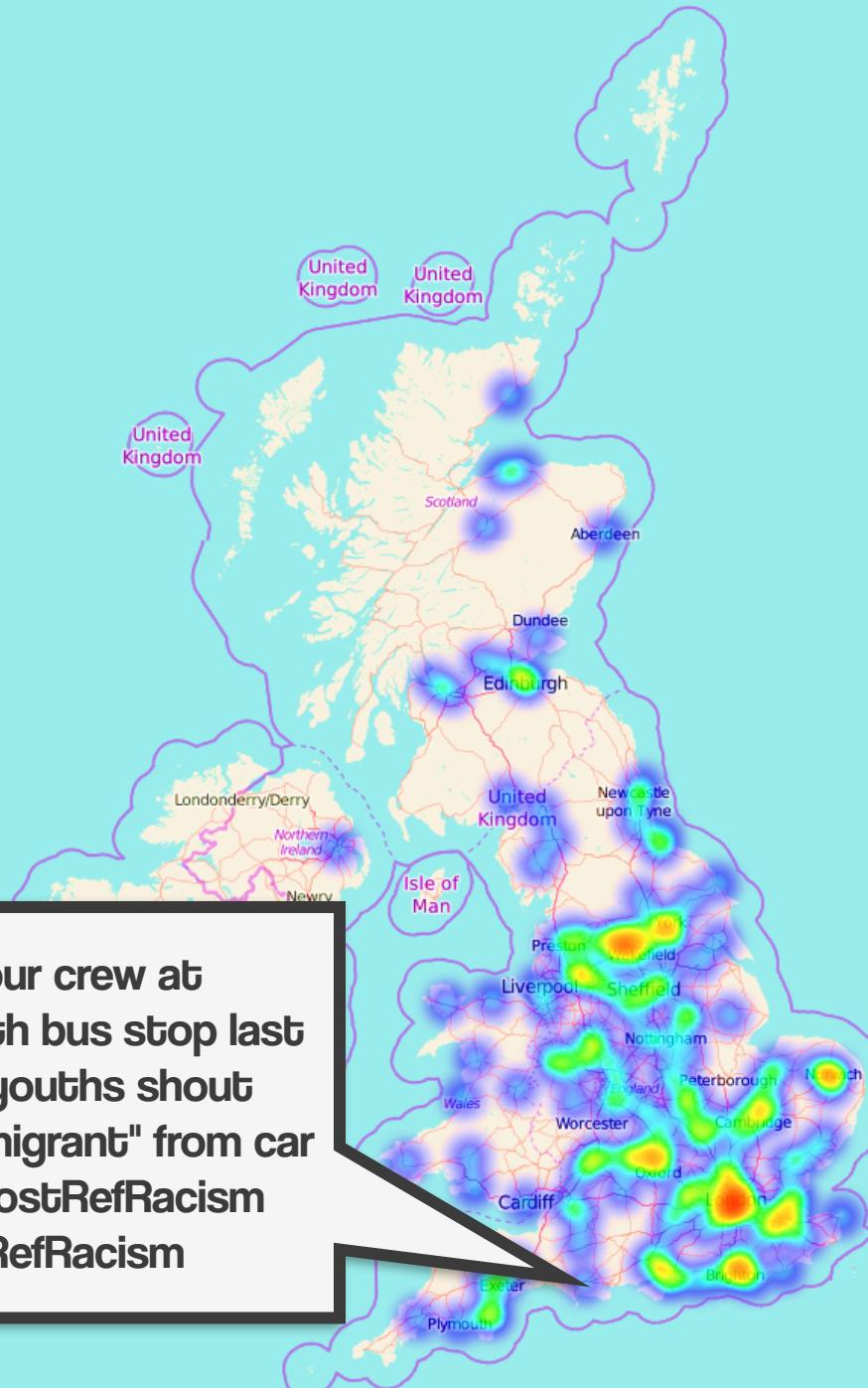


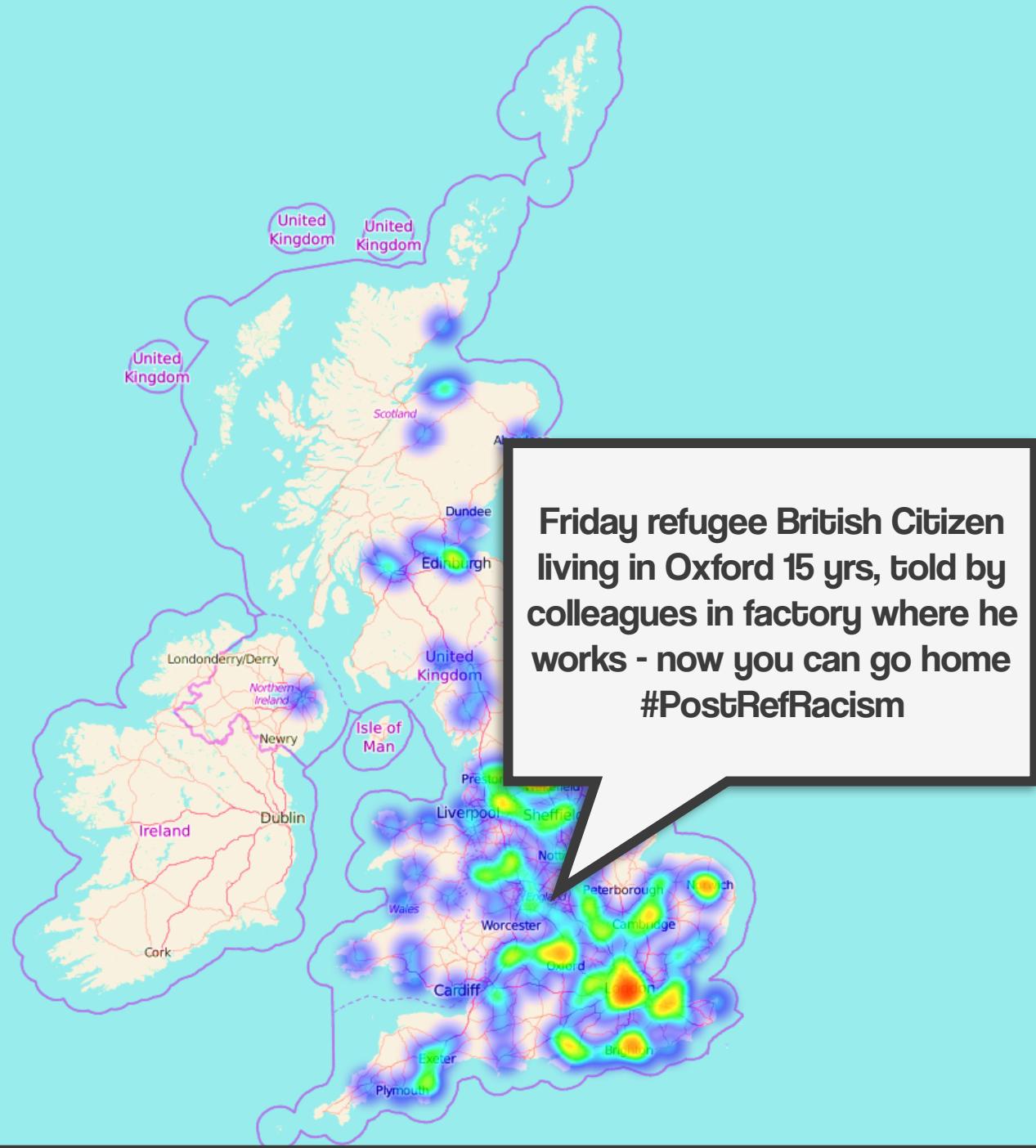


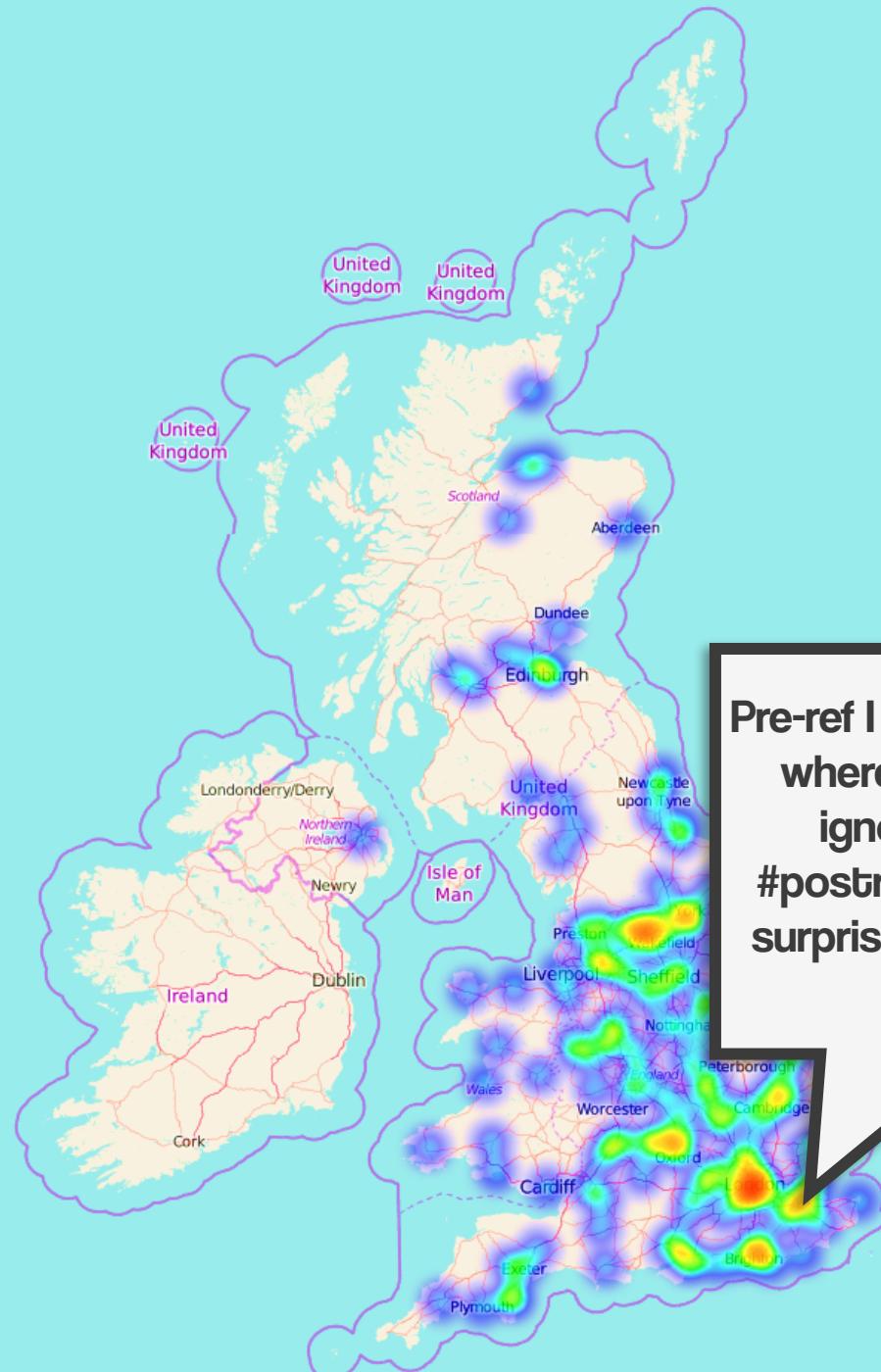
**936 of the 2,413 original stories
could be placed on a map**



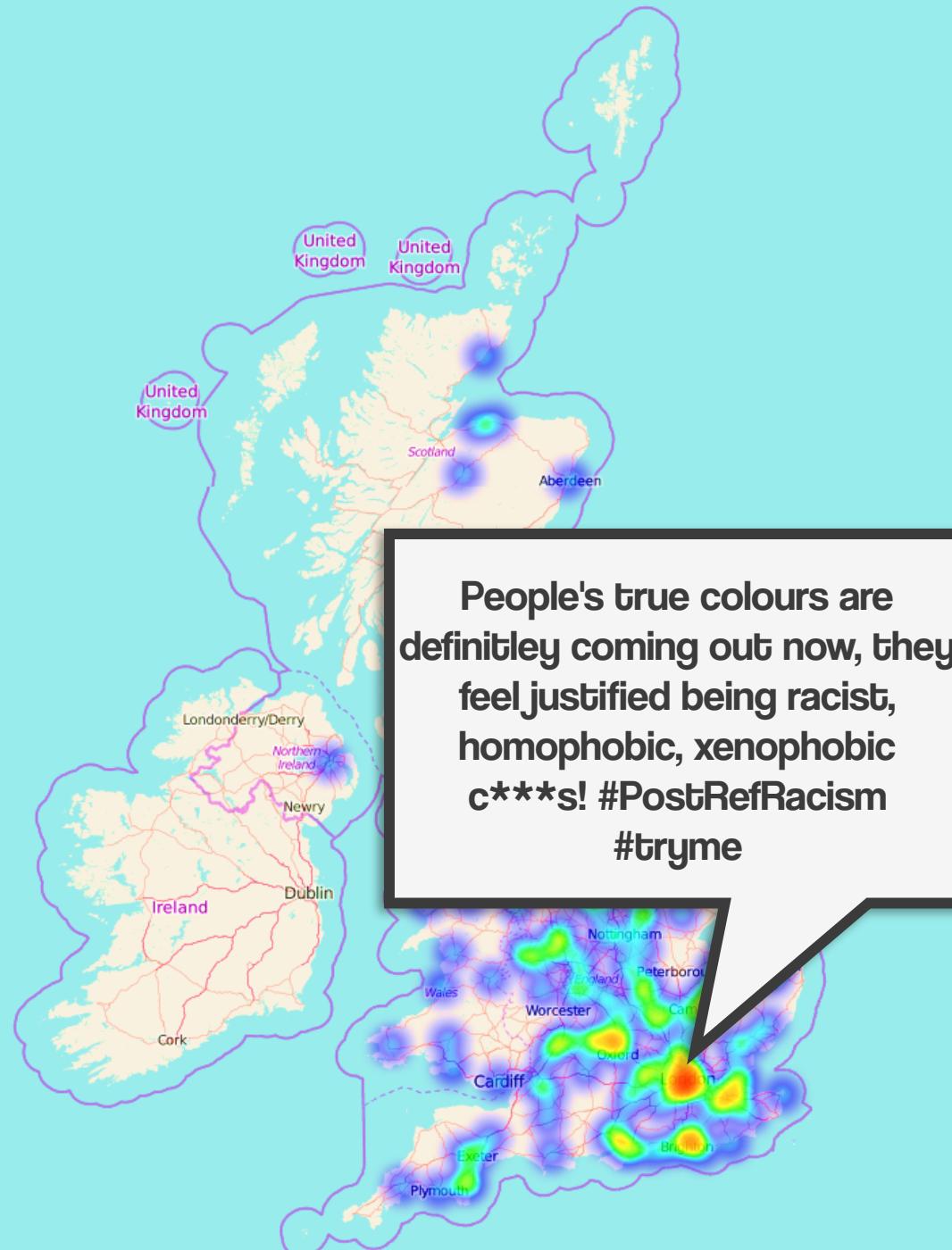
**One of our crew at
#Bournemouth bus stop last
night had youths shout
"F***ing immigrant" from car
window. #PostRefRacism
@PostRefRacism**





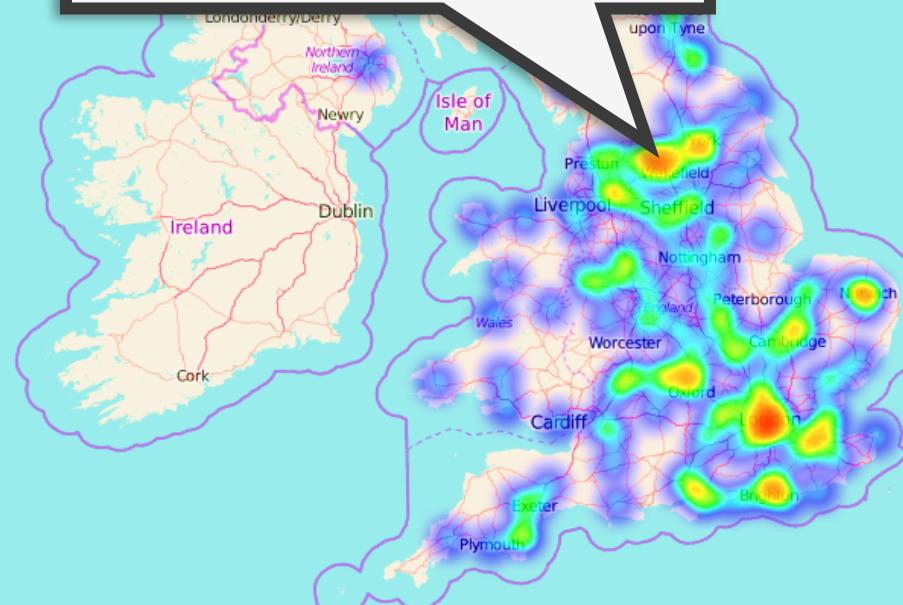


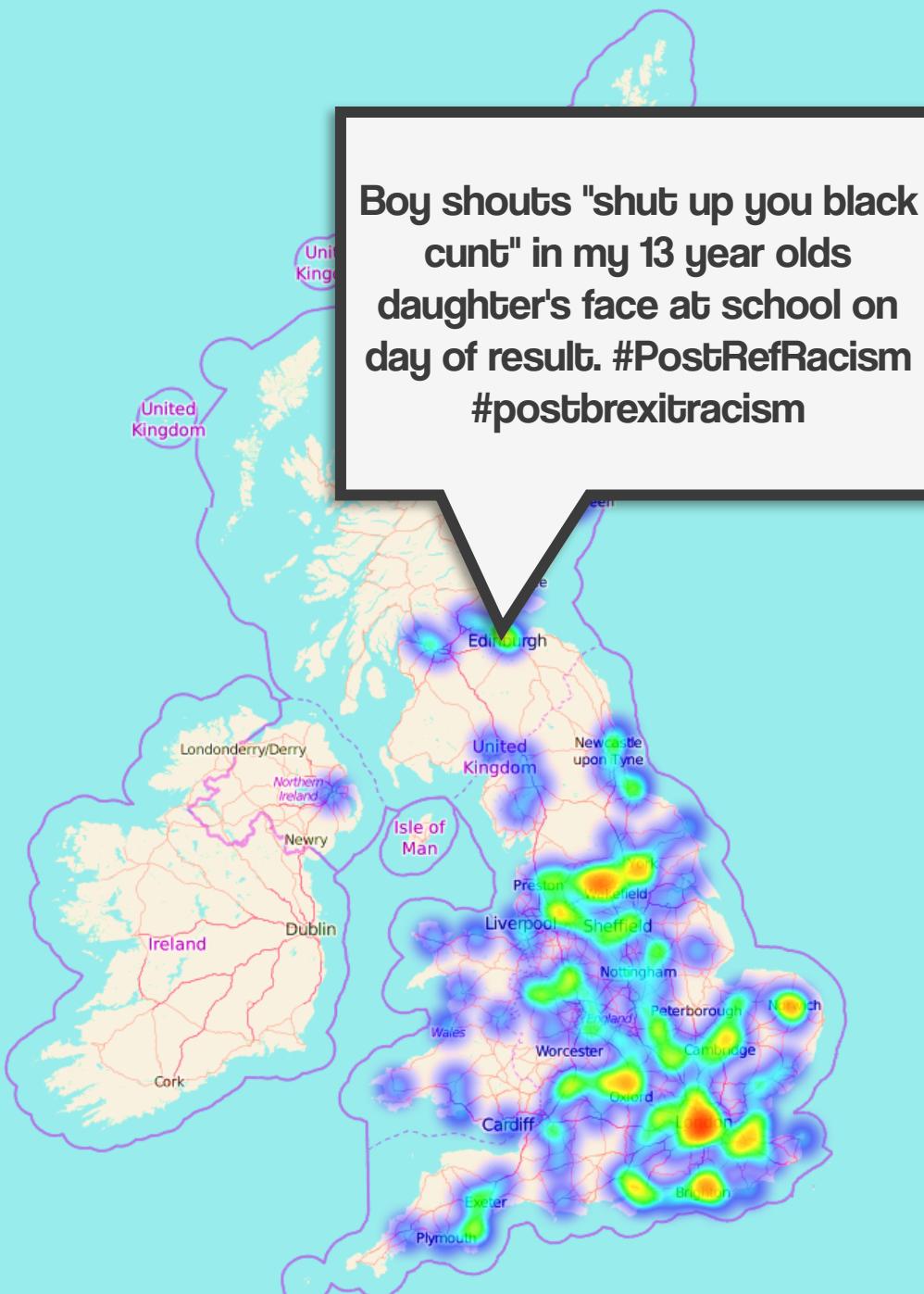
Pre-ref I was told to go back to
where I was born by some
ignoramus I work with
#postrefracism comes as no
surprise really. Shame on you
UK.



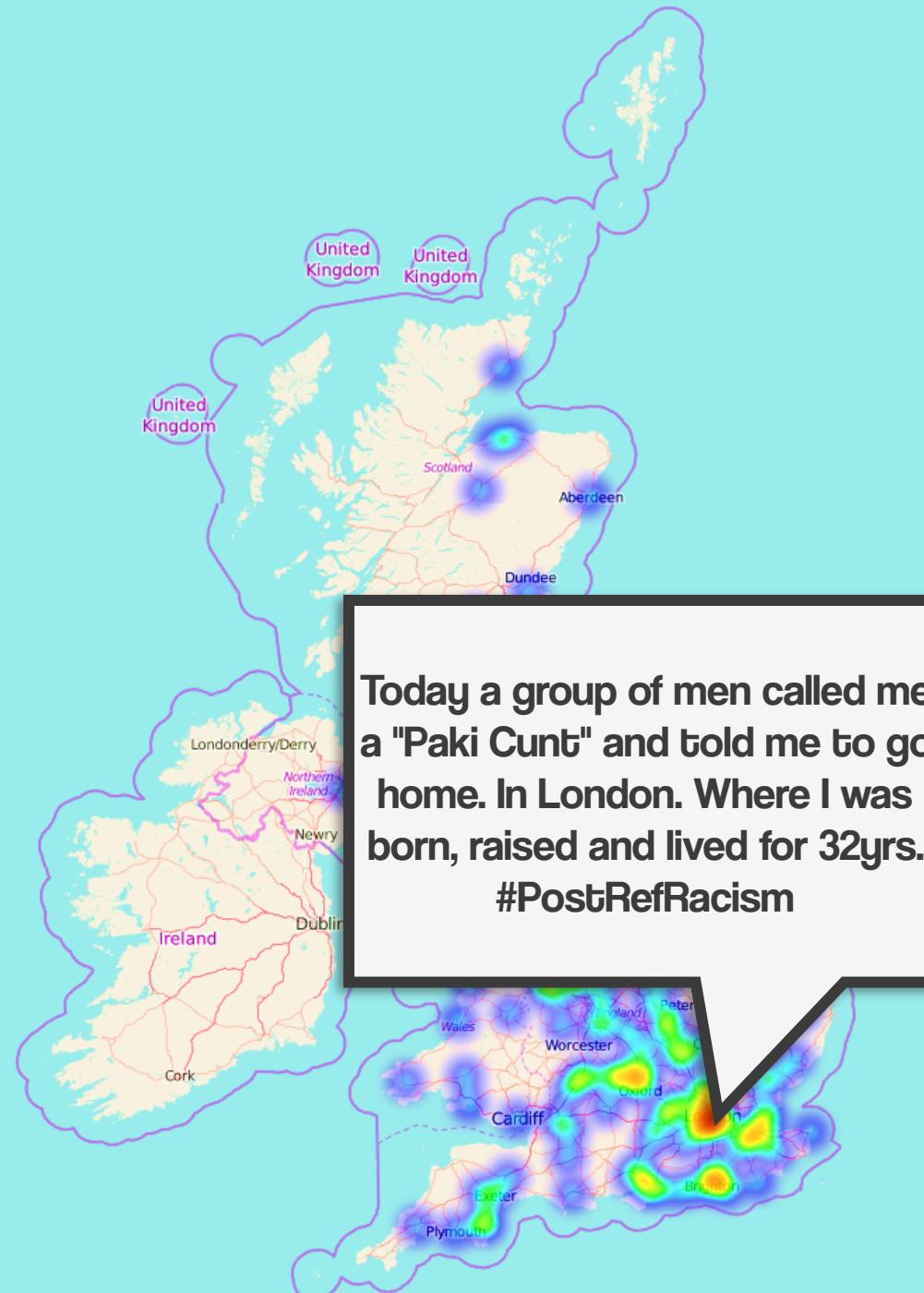


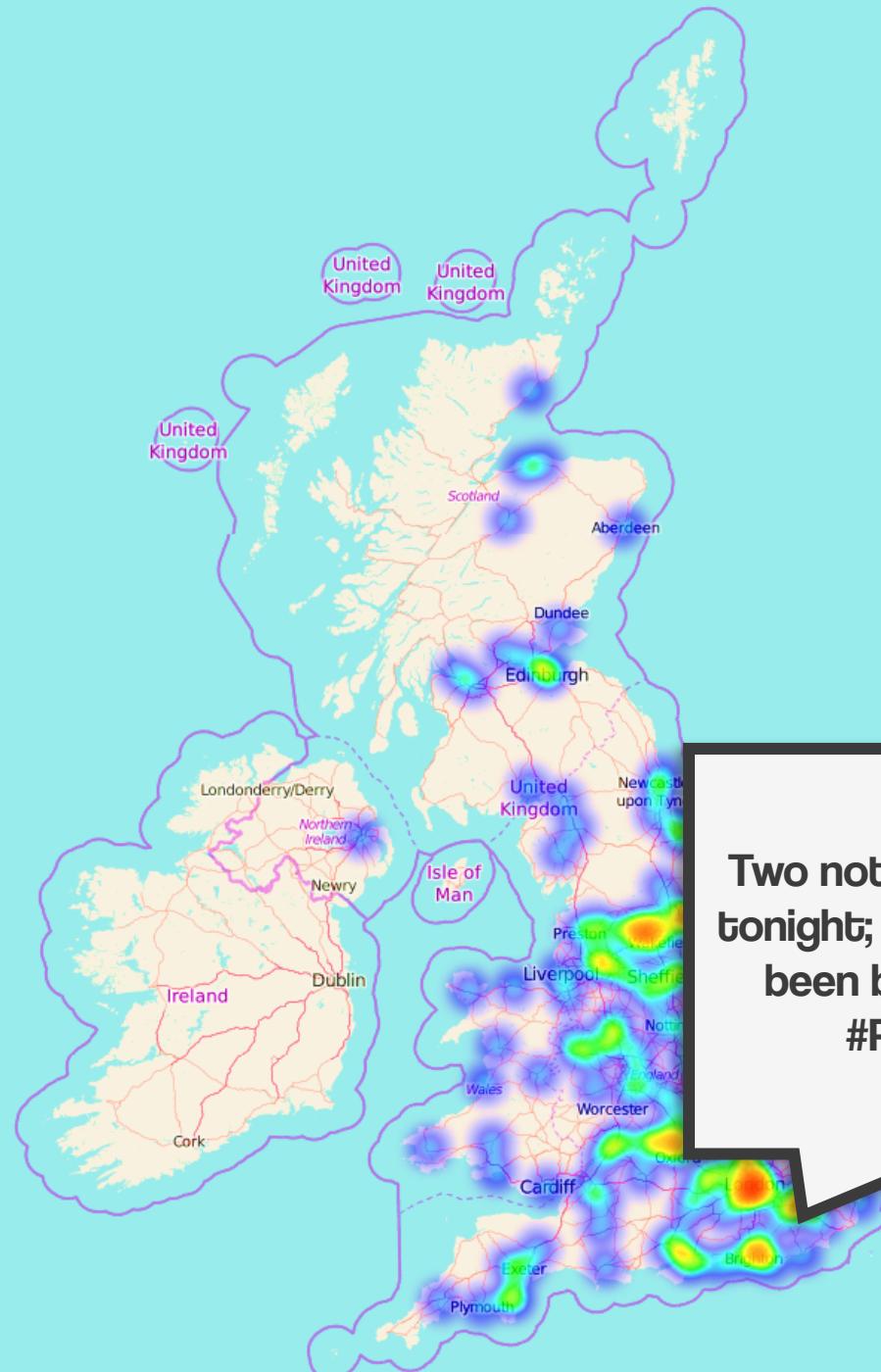
So much hate!!! It's all fun & games until you walking through Leeds and someone shouts "Oi Paki, We Voted Leave, Get out"
#PostRefRacism



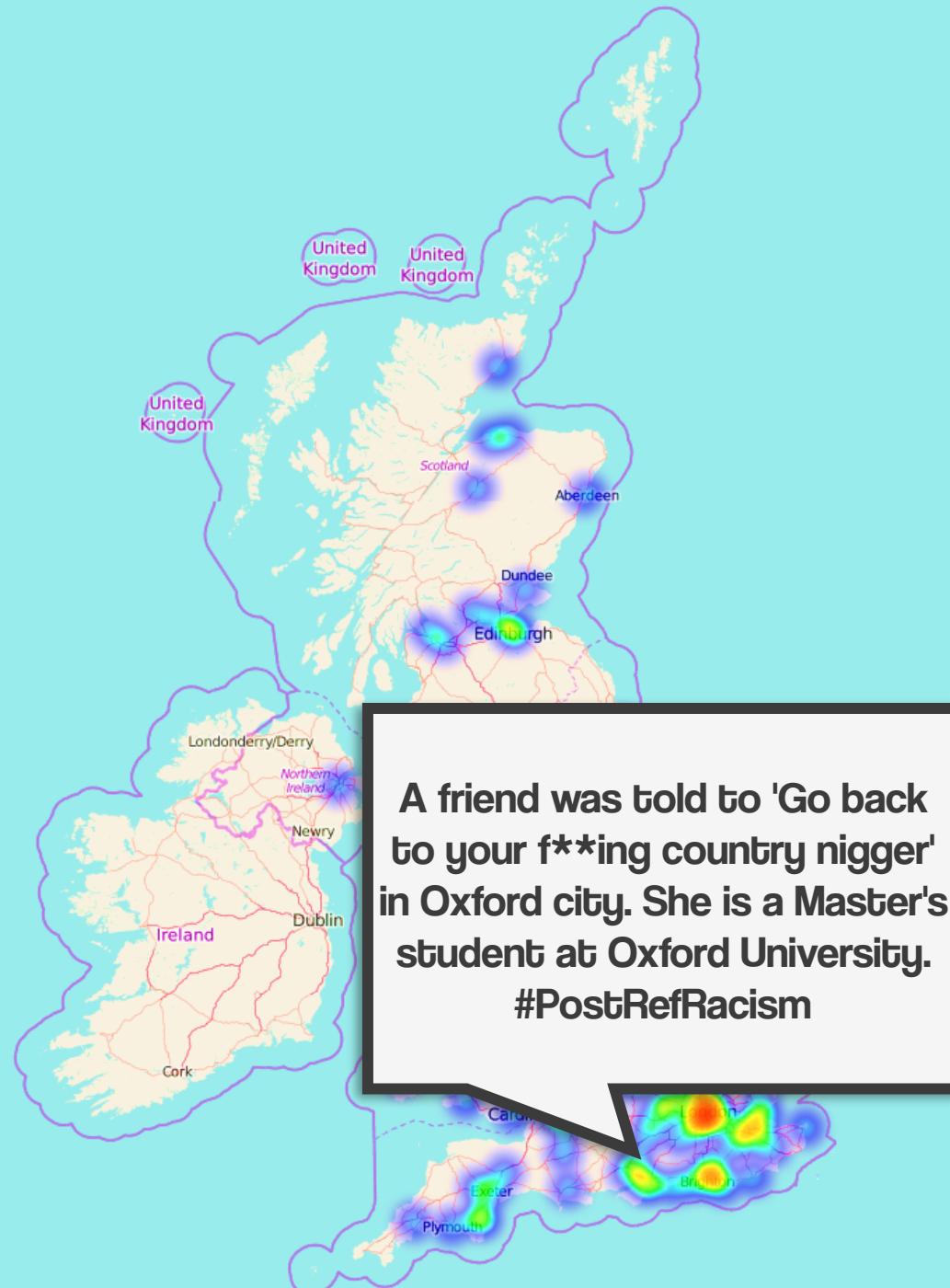


**Boy shouts "shut up you black cunt" in my 13 year olds daughter's face at school on day of result. #PostRefRacism
#postbrexitracism**





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









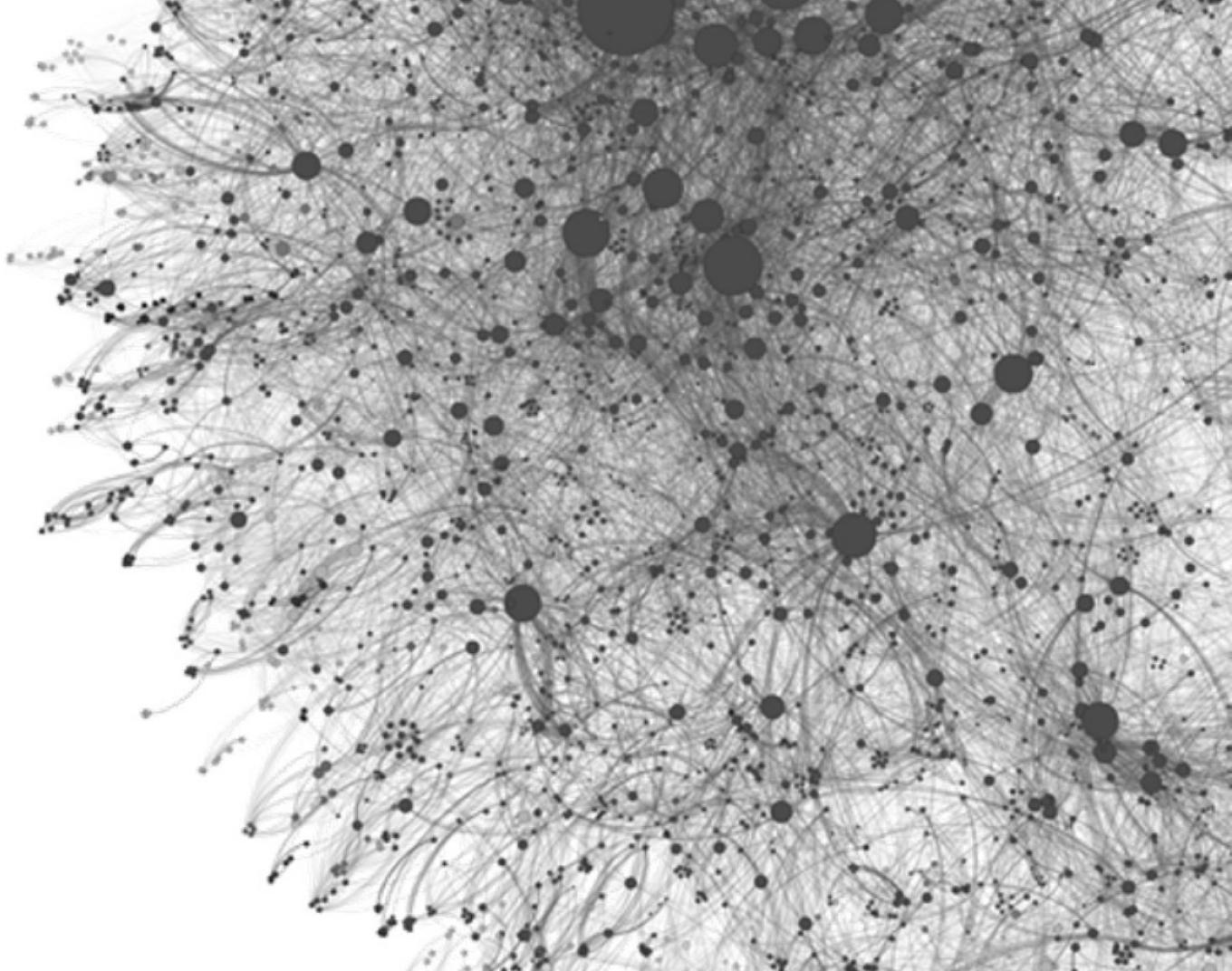
Congratulations to you and also to Daniel York and to Anna Chen for helping us in winning the Brexit vote, Mr McGregor! I am sure you know you get a ferry from Harwich to Rotterdam, in Holland, the Netherlands! Happy to buy one for you, or do you want one for Hong Kong instead?! From an old friend from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

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



CASM

The Centre for
the Analysis of
Social Media



**For more information
contact:**

**Carl Miller, Research Director,
Centre for the Analysis of Social
Media, Demos**

carl.miller@demos.co.uk