INDEPENDENT STUDY TOUR

UK VISIT REPORT

15 APRIL - 12 MAY 2024

JUN 2024 // PREPARED BY NADIA MONTAGUE

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Running National Training at the Australian Labor Party National Secretariat, I am privileged to experience and be able to implement insights from overseas to emerging challenges to social democracy. From my time in Labor, to training activists around the world, this was a close insight into the political landscape of the United Kingdom during massive political shifts.

This report was submitted on the 10th of May, only 29 days since an incredible educational tour of England, Wales and Scotland. None of it would have been possible without the people who share their insights.

I would like to express my gratitude to the 114 individuals I had the opportunity to meet and engage in discussions about the crucial aspect of our politics: inclusion and empowering ourselves to enact the necessary changes in the world.

A particular thanks to Hollie Ridley, Rachel Rising and Jasmine Yeandle, Louise Magee and Jennifer Light who were most generous with your time, experience, humour and expertise. Once again showing the power of women in Labo(u)r.

I hope you enjoy reading the report of what we learned together.

In unity,

Nadia Montague

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Executive summary

Figure 1: Visit with First Minister of Wales

This report presents insights from a 30-day study tour to the United Kingdom, aimed at understanding the current political landscape during a local election campaign and leading up to a general election. The tour focused on three main areas: engaging with local government, mobilizing support post-COVID-19, and addressing disinformation in elections.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, political engagement and mobilization have faced significant changes. Volunteerism and activism have declined, and organizations struggle to effectively manage volunteer journeys. These changes have impacted how political groups mobilize, train, and communicate.

The study tour examined the effects of COVID-19 on activists and organizations, exploring how they adapt to the new political environment. By comparing Australia and the United Kingdom, the paper provides an analysis of how both countries handle the challenges of modern governance and public engagement.

Key findings highlight the need for new strategies to engage with constituents, fight misinformation, and mobilize support in a rapidly changing digital world. The lessons learned are crucial for understanding the evolving dynamics of political activism and organizational adaptation after the pandemic.

Figure 2: Photo ID signage in London graffiti'd by local voter

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Purpose

The purpose of the 30-day independent study tour to the United Kingdom was multifaceted, focusing on examining a real political environment in the midst of a local election campaign and on the precipice of a general election. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, political engagement and mobilization have faced unprecedented challenges and transformations. This paper delves into a recent political trip aimed at addressing three critical areas: engagement with local government, mobilization strategies post-COVID-19, and the pervasive issue of disinformation in elections. The trip also sought to examine some of the latent effects of COVID-19 on activists, organizations, and their adaptations to the evolving political environment. Specifically, the pandemic has led to a noticeable decline in volunteerism and activism, along with a diminished ability for organizations to effectively structure volunteer journeys. These changes have significantly impacted mobilization, training, and communication strategies. By contrasting the approaches and experiences of Australia and the United Kingdom, this paper provides a comparative analysis of how two different political landscapes are navigating the complexities of modern governance and public engagement. The lessons learned from this trip are crucial for understanding how political actors can effectively engage with constituents, combat misinformation, and mobilize support in an era marked by rapid change and digital disruption.

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Study Tour Research Questions

Local Government: How does voter engagement, electoral systems, and political landscapes differ between the UK and Australia in the context of local government elections?

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Mobilisation: What are the latent effects of COVID-19 on activism and mobilization, and how has mobilization and volunteer management changed since 2020 as a result of the pandemic?

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Independents: what are the key similarities and differences in their impact and role within the respective political systems? How does voting systems promote this? (Wales Case Study)

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Background

How COVID-19 changed political environment in the UK

In responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Kingdom and Melbourne, Australia, navigated contrasting political environments that significantly influenced their strategies and lockdown measures.

Pandemic Management in the UK

The UK Conservatives drew extreme criticism in management of the pandemic.

- Delayed implementation of lockdown measures,
- Indequate provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) to healthcare workers, and limited testing capacity early in the pandemic.
- The government's slow response in imposing restrictions led to rapid virus spread, high infection rates, and strain on the National Health Service (NHS).

Additionally, there were concerns about unclear communication and transparency, with some arguing that the government failed to provide clear and consistent messaging, as well as insufficiently transparent decision-making processes.

The controversies surrounding the UK's management of the COVID-19 pandemic have had significant impacts on the political environment in the country. Here's how these controversies have shaped the post-pandemic political landscape:

Trust in Government: The controversies have eroded public trust in the government's handling of the pandemic. Issues such as delayed lockdown measures, shortages of PPE, and perceived inconsistencies in decision-making have led to a loss of confidence in the government's ability to effectively manage crises. This lack of trust could have lasting effects on voter attitudes towards the ruling party and political leaders.

Political Polarization: The controversies have deepened political divisions and polarization in the UK. Criticism of the government's handling of the pandemic has become highly politicized, with differing opinions often aligning along partisan lines. This polarization has made it challenging to achieve consensus on key issues related to pandemic management and recovery.

Shift in Political Discourse of Young People: Mutual aid and anti-establishment sentiments have influenced the broader political discourse since the pandemic. Placing greater emphasis on issues of adoption of radical policy reforms.

Housing crisis: UK and Australia have faced significant challenges in their housing markets, characterized by affordability issues, pressures in the rental market, and increased homelessness.

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1 Local Government: How does voter engagement, electoral systems, and political landscapes differ between the UK and Australia in the context of local government elections?

Electoral System

For ease of comparisons - I have compared and contrasted the environments of the UK and Victoria, Australia.
In local council elections, the electoral systems used in the UK and Victoria, Australia exhibit both similarities and differences:

In both regions, local council elections are conducted through a secret ballot, ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of voters' choices.

In the UK, the electoral system for local council elections varies across different regions. In England and Wales, local council elections often use a plurality/majority system, where candidates compete for single-member electoral districts, and the candidate with the highest number of votes wins the seat. However, in Scotland the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system is used. STV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference in multi-member electoral districts, with seats allocated based on a quota system.

In contrast, local council elections in Victoria, Australia, predominantly use the proportional representation system known as the Single Transferable Vote (STV). This system is similar to the STV used in Scotland and Northern Ireland, allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference in multi-member districts.

The use of multi-member electoral districts is more common in Australia, than in the UK. In Victoria, local council elections often use multi-member districts, where voters can elect multiple representatives to serve on the council. This is particularly the case in local government elections that use the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system. In contrast, single-member electoral districts are more prevalent in the UK, particularly in England and Wales, although multi-member districts are used in Scotland where the STV system is employed.

During this study tour, it was clear just how significant the impact of compulsory voting is. In Australia, compulsory votine is required for local council elections. The lack of compulsory voting had very small turnout rates can vary significantly between different areas and elections. In local election areas I witnessed, the lowest turnout was 8%.

Voter turnout in Victoria's council elections is generally moderate compared to state and national elections, with rates varying depending on factors such as the competitiveness of the election, local issues, and community engagement efforts. Turnout tends to be higher in urban areas compared to rural and regional areas. Turnout for local elections is increasing in Australia instead of decreasing.

Party politics play a more significant role in UK local council elections compared to Australia. In the UK, candidates often stand for election as representatives of political parties, and party affiliation is a key factor in voters' decision-making.

In Victoria, while political parties are involved in local government elections, there is generally more emphasis on independent candidates and local issues, particularly in areas where the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system is used.

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LOCAL ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

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Structure

In both countries, local authorities play a vital role in delivering public services, such as waste management, planning and development, parks and recreation, libraries, and local infrastructure projects.

The structure of local government differs between Australia and the UK. In Australia, local government is organized at the municipal level, with local councils responsible for cities, shires, or regions. Each council differs in their range of services.

In the UK, local government is organized into various types of local authorities, including county councils, district councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan boroughs, and London boroughs. The structure of local government varies across different regions and is governed by different legislative frameworks. Unitary authorities are responsible for all local government services in their area, while district councils share responsibilities with county councils.

Local elections in England are held on a staggered basis, with different local authorities having elections at different times. Typically, elections are held every four years, but the timing varies depending on the local authority. Whereas, Australia goes to local government elections state-by-state.

Party first

Dominance of national parties in local elections is unique to the UK. Local elections in England are often influenced by the dominance of national political parties, especially the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. Smaller parties, such as the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party, also contest these elections, but the electoral landscape is largely shaped by the two main parties. The dynamic is changing in London particularly in areas dominated by young people.

Campaigning

Local elections in England involve intense campaigning by political parties and candidates.

Both the Labour Party and Conservatives were engaged mainly in direct voter contact.

Parties typically focus on national and local issues, and campaigns often receive extensive media coverage. This was a real difference between that observed in Australia where we see very little coverage of local council. Obviously, this is due to our three tiers of government compared to two. Campaigning in Victoria's council elections tends to be more community-focused, with candidates often highlighting local issues and engaging directly with residents. Media coverage of council elections is negligible.

During the Local Government elections we saw press events attended by multiple media outlets without needing to promote or develop relationships with journalists. This is not something that could happen in Australia, with the exception of perhaps Sydney or Melbourne mayors.

MOBILISATION & VOLUNTEERING

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2 Mobilisation: What are the latent effects of COVID-19 on activism and mobilization, and how has mobilization and volunteer management changed since 2020 as a result of the pandemic?

Distributed to Centralised

Globally, from 2015 to 2019, "distributed organising" dominated campaign conferences, literature and embed itself in political parties, trades and labour councils and other campaign organisations. "Big Organising" was promoted as a recent innovation, however, was new retail offer of anachronistic frameworks in the peace movement and early union organising.

This model of mobilisation was part of the UK Labour training and mobilisation of 2019 election. "Distributed organising" claimed an efficiency and surge in scale of action and volunteers. It believed that activists are waiting and already able to act immediately and are inhibited due to organiser led over-centralisation. The framework was focused on not just organising and mobilising but drawing on definitions of leadership. The "Big Organising" offer saw centralised organising models as "slow organising". The removal of organiser-led action was a return to Babylon and removing the professionalisation of campaigns was removing a burden of bureaucracy that restricted a natural energy system of action.

UK and Australia Organising Models

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on volunteering in party politics and other civic activities, leading to a decline in participation in offline activity in both the UK and Australia.

Momentum in the UK, a grassroots movement aligned with the Labour Party, exemplified this distributed organizing model. Momentum relied on a network of local groups and volunteers to organize events, engage with voters, and campaign for political change.

Like Bernie Sanders' model, which utilized the barnstorming approach, without formal leadership much of the action had not continued.

Figure 5: Analysis of actions in 2020

Distributed organising is not a raison detre in the Labor party. Distributed organising was seen in Referendum saw from YES23. Although it was steered by state and national organisers and produced some scale - it did not provide an ongoing constituency of people ready to act together for shared goals.

Once conclusion from speaking to digital organisers in Scotland, England and Wales, was the ability for online actions to function in this way.

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Fewer IRL volunteers

After COVID, Parties in Australia and UK experienced a surge in in-person community events and activities. However it was temporary, and virtual asks and digital volunteering became more prevalent.

Despite the initial surge in volunteering, there have been challenges to sustaining volunteer participation in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Volunteer fatigue and decreased motivation have resulted from drawing on a smaller base of people able to have the time to volunteer.

Additionally, economic uncertainty has forced some individuals to prioritize paid employment, full time study over political participation. The UK local elections saw a small number of committed volunteers who dedicated many hours - but few people committing smaller regular, or irregular amounts of time to volunteering.

Similar to Australia, who rely on volunteers for campaigning, administration, and other essential tasks. The disruptions caused challenges in mobilizing volunteers. One challenge which appears to be less prevalent in the UK, is the reduction in students or youth wing participation. In Australia we can see it is in part due to university going online, and enabling students to take on more paid work - and on-campus life being less significant. However, when surveying University of Edinburgh students this was not changed as accommodation on campus maintained in-person political experiences and relationships.

Digital volunteering and mobilising online.

I got particular insights on digital volunteering and activism speaking to the Labour HQ team.

They spoke about their online storytelling strategies, including personal narratives, social media campaigns, and interactive digital content, have proven to be effective tools in capturing attention and fostering meaningful connections with volunteers and supporters. Supporters are trained and invited to improve the way they already organically show support for their party online, to invite more people into acting together.

Additionally, there was time spent training volunteers to think about community together as volunteers online is crucial for building a sense of solidarity and collective action.

By harnessing the power of digital platforms and implementing innovative online storytelling techniques, political parties can effectively mobilize volunteers and engage the community in impactful ways.

Digital volunteering and mobilising online.

Volunteering has changed in both UK and Australia for social democratic parties. The shared challenge presents opportunities which can be learned from by the programs in England, UK and Scotland.

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INDEPENDENT CAMPAIGNS

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Independents: what are the key similarities and differences in their impact and role within the respective political systems? How does voting systems promote this?

Independents in the UK local elections

My time speaking to the field, strategy and research teams in addition to YouGov UK, it was clear that the UK share the trend in Australia of Party disillusionment.

Yougov has shown that voters have become disillusioned with mainstream political parties. Discontent with the political establishment has led some voters to vote for new independent candidates who run single issue or personality campaigns. Many campaigns in the UK similar to Australia, rest on populist rhetoric. Voters spoken to in Scotland and England, perceived independents as being less bound by party politics and more responsive to local concerns.

 However, the rise of independent candidates has contributed to fragmented governance, with independents running issues for campaigns and not long term platforms and agendas. In local councils with a majority of independent councillors, there can be challenges in forming cohesive policies and strategies, leading to inefficiencies and difficulties in delivering effective governance.

Despite the rise in support for independent candidates reflects a broader desire for change for accountability - not an outright a rejection of traditional party politics.

Independent candidates often campaign on platforms of local accountability, transparency, and community-driven initiatives, appealing to voters who are seeking fresh approaches to governance and representation. Reviews of several councils showed some independent campaigns on specific local issues or personal platforms, were often reactive and did not align with broader policy objectives or long-term planning. This a lack of continuity in policy implementation and governance, made addressing complex challenges more difficult.

Independent candidates in the UK focus on addressing specific local issues to a smaller consitutency that may be overlooked by mainstream parties.

Independent Campaign Style

Independent candidates are often seen as more authentic and genuine in their motivations, free from the constraints and influences of party politics. This perceived authenticity can attract voters who are skeptical of career politicians and seek representatives who prioritize the interests of their constituents over party loyalty.

However, my experience in local council interviews is that independent candidates are not bound by the structures and accountability mechanisms of mainstream political parties, which can lead to a lack of transparency and oversight in decision-making processes. Without the checks and balances provided by party affiliations, there is a risk that independent candidates may not be held accountable for their actions and decisions.

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3 Independents: what are the key similarities and differences in their impact and role within the respective political systems? How does voting systems promote this?

In recent years, there has been a notable trend of increased support for independent candidates in the UK, particularly in local council elections. There are several reasons contributing to this shift in voting behavior:

Dissatisfaction with Mainstream Political Parties

Many voters have become disillusioned with mainstream political parties due to perceived failures in addressing key issues and delivering on campaign promises. Discontent with the political establishment has led some voters to seek alternatives, including independent candidates who are perceived as being less bound by party politics and more responsive to local concerns.

In speaking with local councillors and service users however, there is a perception that the rise of independent candidates can contribute to fragmented governance, as elected representatives may lack cohesive platforms and agendas. In local councils with a majority of independent councillors, there can be challenges in forming cohesive policies and strategies, leading to inefficiencies and difficulties in delivering effective governance.

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Local Issues

Independent candidates often focus on addressing specific local issues that may be overlooked by mainstream parties. By championing local causes and advocating for community interests, independent candidates can resonate with voters who feel that mainstream parties are disconnected from the realities of their local area.

Perceived Authenticity and Integrity

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However, local council interviews is that independent candidates are not bound by the structures and accountability mechanisms of mainstream political parties, which can lead to a lack of transparency and oversight in decision-making processes.

Personal Appeal of Independent Candidates

In some cases, voters are drawn to independent candidates based on their personal qualities, experiences, and local connections. Independent candidates who are well-known and respected within their communities can garner significant support based on their individual merits and track records.

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Personal Appeal of Independent Candidates

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An analysis of independent candidates found that they were widely white middle class people, and lacked diversity shown in Labour. This is very similar to the Australian context.

Learning from Labour's recruitment for volunteers and candidate training programs

Labour is implementing a comprehensive strategy to recruit volunteers by making significant changes to the recruitment process. Advertisements for significant positions are being transparent, clearly stating that no prior experience or specific skills are necessary.

The recruitment process itself is being redesigned to minimize reliance on political experience, focusing instead on assessing candidates' personality and potential rather than just existing skills and experience.

Labour is collaborating with external experts to ensure diversity and inclusion are embedded throughout the process. The composition of the interview panel is being carefully considered to reflect diversity. Financial barriers to attending interviews are being removed by covering domestic travel costs.

Competitive pay is being offered to attract top talent. Additionally, national office involvement is being integrated into every stage of the process, from advertising and hiring to training and payment, even if the funding for the positions comes from local sources. Through these initiatives, Labour aims to build a more diverse, inclusive, and skilled workforce dedicated to furthering its mission and objectives.

These volunteers are likely to become organisers, and eventually consider running as candidates. This approach to diversity and inclusion would assist in removing the "old traditional parties" as we are bringing in authentic people with multitude of experience.

Independents but in coalitions

Thurrock council have independents that combine to form parties and then disband. The Thurrock Independents Party combined independents into a localist and populist party. Seventeen councillors, broke-away from the UK Independence Party (UKIP) after claiming to have grown disillusioned with party politics. Everyone defected from this newly formed independent coalition until the party disbanded in 2023.

This is not a shared phenomena in Local Council elections in Australia as independents are a common feature of local government. It does highlight some similarities in minor parties and independents historically in Australia.

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DISINFORMATION & CONSPIRACY

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Disinformation: Compare and contrast the actors of disinformation in Australia and the UK to understand the shared and different challenges.

Misinformation on social media has been a significant issue in the UK, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic. Several studies and specific instances highlight how misinformation spreads online, often involving political figures and influencing public opinion. When speaking to digital campaigners for Labour and against misinformation in the non-for-profit sector

Evidence of Online Misinformation in the UK

Speaking to Ofcom, the UK particularly during election periods has consistently reported high levels of misinformation on social media. Their studies during the pandemic indicated that nearly half of adults in the UK had encountered false or misleading information about COVID-19.

When it comes to misinformation in the UK, it mirrors Australia re Facebook but has an added dimension of WhatsApp being particularly prominent.

Specific instances of misinformation emerged from the pandemic. Boris Johnson and COVID-19 Misinformation misinformation about Prime Minister Boris Johnson's health and government policies proliferated. For example, there were false claims on social media that Johnson had faked his COVID-19 diagnosis for political sympathy. These claims were widely debunked but still circulated on platforms like Twitter and Facebook.

Labour leader Keir Starmer was also subject to misinformation. For instance, there were misleading posts on Facebook and Twitter alleging that Starmer was anti-vaccine, despite his public support for the vaccination campaign. These posts were part of broader disinformation efforts to undermine public trust in vaccines by associating prominent figures with anti-vaccine sentiments.

Mechanisms of Spread

The UK experience the same Social Media Algorithms , echo chambers and a fragmented media landscape mimic the environment in Australian context,

Influencers and Bot Accounts similarly have been able to platform content over organic content for political gain.

Examples of interference during UK election periods were shared with me from political organisers and digital advocacy professionals.

The UK Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee conducted investigations into disinformation and fake news, revealing the extent of bot activities and foreign interference. Their reports highlighted the role of Russian state actors in using bots to influence UK politics.

Numerous studies by academic institutions, such as the Oxford Internet Institute and Cardiff University, have documented the presence of bots and their influence on political discourse in the UK. These studies often point to patterns of activity that suggest coordination by state actors, particularly from Russia.

In the lead-up to the 2017 General Election, there were significant concerns about foreign interference, particularly from Russia. Political academics from Swansea University revealed that about 6,500 Russian Twitter accounts posted messages supporting Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. These accounts were believed to be bots designed to amplify Corbyn's messages and sow discord within the UK political landscape.

Disinformation: Compare and contrast the actors of disinformation in Australia and the UK to understand the shared and different challenges.

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Theresa May and the Conservative Party: Conversely, some bot activities were directed at undermining then-Prime Minister Theresa May and the Conservative Party. These bots spread negative content about her leadership and the Conservative Party's policies, aiming to influence public perception and voter behavior.

During the 2019 General Election, there were renewed concerns about bot interference. Bots were again detected spreading content favorable to Boris Johnson and the Conservative Party, as well as negative content about Labour and Jeremy Corbyn.

A significant portion of political tweets during the election period came from automated accounts, many of which were suspected of being influenced by foreign entities. These bots focused on polarizing issues such as Brexit, immigration, and national security, aiming to manipulate public opinion.

Sadiq Khan Case Study

In early November 2023, an AI-generated audio clip went viral, falsely portraying Sadiq Khan as disparaging Remembrance weekend and calling for pro-Palestine marches to take precedence.

There has not been an instance of a deep fake audio or video in Australian politics, with the exception of scams using Ministers to endorse products, which undermines trust in government.

In Australia, deepfake investment scam videos have featured images of Finance Minister Katy Gallagher and Foreign Minister Penny Wong, exemplifying a troubling trend of using politicians likeness in AI.

We also see this disinformation normalise easily disprovable claims in the campaign. See figure from Conservative party faslely claiming London is the crime capital of the world.

London's Sadiq Khan shaken by pro-Palestine deepfake

AI-generated audio of Khan disparaging Remembrance weekend went viral last November.

SHARE

POLITICOPRO Free article usually reserved for subscribers

Khan argued that organizations like watchdog the Electoral Commission need more powers to deal with misinformation | Leon Neal/Getty Images

FEBRUARY 13, 2024 11:00 PM CET
BY TOM BRISTOW

LONDON — London Mayor Sadiq Khan believes fake audio of him making inflammatory remarks before last year's Armistice Day almost caused "serious disorder" — and he's calling for a crackdown on disinformation.

Figure 6: Politico News Article on deep fake attack against mayor of London.

Conservatives @Conservatives · 16h
FACT: London under Labour has become a crime capital of the world 🇮🇹

Conservative Party attack ad falsely claiming London has become a "crime capital of the world

Figure 7: Conservatives tweet against Sadiq Khan in London Mayoral Campaign

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Disinformation: Compare and contrast the actors of disinformation in Australia and the UK to understand the shared and different challenges.

A Landscape that began before the Pandemic but grew because of it.

Reflecting with digital professionals and academics specialising and concerned about disinformation, we had agreement that one of the aims was to make political discourse absurd. This did not begin during covid but it did make it a permanent feature of politics in a new space online.

One of the most prevalent conspiracy theories during the pandemic was that the virus was a bioweapon deliberately released by powerful entities for population control or economic gain. This theory was often accompanied by the belief that lockdown measures were a means for governments to exert authoritarian control over citizens. Prominent proponents included various online influencers and fringe political groups who leveraged social media platforms to disseminate their views.

Participants in these conspiracy theories came from diverse backgrounds but shared common traits such as a general distrust of government, mainstream media, and scientific authorities. Many were already skeptical of vaccines and public health measures prior to the pandemic. Notably, the reach of these theories extended beyond traditional fringes, drawing in individuals from various socioeconomic backgrounds, including some with higher education levels who nonetheless harbored deep-seated skepticism towards institutional authority.

The spread of conspiracy theories had a tangible impact on the UK's political environment. Politically, it exacerbated existing divisions and fueled a broader anti-establishment sentiment. This was evident in the rise of protests against lockdown measures and vaccines, which occasionally turned violent. These movements were often characterized by a convergence of disparate groups, including far-right extremists, libertarians, and those influenced by misinformation online.

Politicians and public figures sometimes found themselves caught in the crossfire. For example, some Members of Parliament faced harassment and threats from conspiracy theorists, impacting their ability to engage with constituents. Additionally, mainstream political discourse was affected as parties had to navigate the challenge of addressing public health concerns while also countering misinformation.

The political impact extended to the public's trust in government institutions. Surveys indicated a decline in trust towards both the government and public health authorities, partly due to the widespread belief in conspiracy theories. This erosion of trust complicated efforts to manage the pandemic, as segments of the population resisted vaccination and compliance with public health measures.

Furthermore, the media played a dual role in this dynamic. While mainstream outlets often worked to debunk misinformation, their efforts were sometimes counterproductive, as conspiracy theorists viewed such attempts as confirmation of a cover-up. Simultaneously, alternative media platforms thrived, providing a space for conspiracy theories to flourish and gain traction among wider audiences.

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Disinformation: Compare and contrast the actors of disinformation in Australia and the UK to understand the shared and different challenges.

Keir Starmer Deep Fake

A fake recording depicting Starmer verbally abusing staff was released on the first day of Labour's annual conference in October.

 X allegedly did not respond to repeated requests to remove the content. The clip garnered approximately 1.5 million views within days on X and was widely regarded as the first major deepfake incident in British politics.

Plans to overhaul misinformation and disinformation in the UK and what we can learn.

Labour Party has expressed significant concern about the threat posed by deepfakes and disinformation. To combat these issues, they are advocates for stronger regulations and legislative measures, including updating existing laws to specifically address the creation and dissemination of deepfake content and other forms of digital disinformation.

Starmer also emphasizes platform accountability, pushing for stricter requirements for social media companies to monitor and remove false information promptly. Additionally, he plans to bolster the UK's cybersecurity infrastructure by investing in advanced technologies and collaborating with cybersecurity experts, technology companies, and academic institutions to develop effective countermeasures.
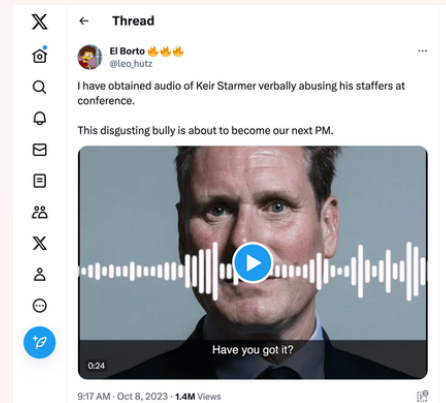

Figure 8: Deep fake of Starmer

Recognizing the importance of an informed public, Starmer aims to enhance media literacy and raise awareness about the dangers of disinformation and deepfakes through educational programs and public awareness campaigns. He also stresses the need for international collaboration, working with allies to develop global standards and cooperative strategies, and actively participating in international forums focused on these challenges.

Furthermore, Starmer supports independent journalism as a crucial element in countering disinformation, providing funding and support for media organizations, and ensuring the safety of journalists who investigate and expose false information.

By implementing these strategies, he aims to create a more resilient and informed society capable of resisting the threats posed by deepfakes and disinformation.

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5

Social Democracy: What are the overall findings and main challenges faced by social democracy on a global scale?

The challenges facing social democracy in the UK and Australia are multifaceted, particularly in the context of online disinformation, lack of trust in political parties, issue-based voter alignment, and declining volunteerism. Here are the key challenges and potential solutions:

Online Disinformation

The spread of false information through social media, deepfakes, and AI-generated content undermines public trust and can manipulate voter opinions. This erodes democratic processes by spreading confusion, influencing elections with misleading information, and fostering political polarization.

Lack of Trust in Political Parties

Global phenomenon of a growing distrust in traditional political institutions. This results in voter apathy, lower engagement in democratic processes, and a rise in support for populist or fringe movements.

Issues vs Agendas

Voters increasingly prioritize specific issues, over ideological alignments. This makes it challenging for political parties to maintain a cohesive policy agenda, leading to fragmented support and difficulties in forming stable governments.

Decline in Volunteerism & Civil Society

Fewer people are willing to volunteer for political campaigns, community organizing, and civic engagement activities. This reduces grassroots mobilization, weakens community connections, and lessens robust support networks for social democratic initiatives.

Challenges for Social Democracy

Social democracy must maintain relevance by adapting to rapidly changing political landscapes and addressing contemporary issues while staying true to core values of equality, justice, and welfare.

Engaging younger voters, who may be disillusioned with traditional politics but are passionate about specific issues, is crucial. Effectively countering online disinformation while promoting credible sources of information is essential to maintain an informed electorate.

Looking forward

Increasing transparency and accountability through enhanced government transparency and stringent anti-corruption measures can rebuild trust in political institutions.

Adapting political strategies to develop flexible approaches that address key voter concerns while integrating them into a broader social democratic framework can help engage voters. Collaborating with grassroots organizations and social movements can align policy agendas with public sentiment.

UK Study tour

2024

May 2024

5 Social Democracy: What are the overall findings and main challenges faced by social democracy on a global scale?

Harnessing technology for positive engagement by using digital platforms to engage with voters, gather feedback. Investing in technologies that detect and mitigate the spread of disinformation can help combat online misinformation.

Addressing these challenges with targeted strategies can help social democracy in the UK and Australia navigate the complexities of the modern political landscape and continue to promote progressive social democracy.

UK Study tour

2024

Please do not publicly publish pages overleaf.

Due to the nature of the ongoing general election please do not publish the pages detailing staff, roles and positions for their safety.

UK Study tour

2024

Tom Adams	Head of Data and Targeting, UK Labour
Brody Anderson	Senior Digital Officer, Wales Labour
Dean Avis	Fundraising officer
Eden Bailey	Data Organiser, UK Labour
Jaimie Bailey	Digital Trainee
Richard Bennett	Key Seats Unit
Alex Bevan	Staff of First Minister
Tom Brookes	Strategy and Insight team, UK Labour
Josh Carrington	Digital Organiser, Labour HQ
John Cecil	Stanford East and Corringham Town
Daniel Chukwu	Councillor, Chadwell St Mary
Phillip Collins	Tony Blair's Speechwriter
Joe Cox	Head of Digital, Wales Labour
Jen Craft	Parliamentary candidate
Grace Davis	Digital organiser, Wales Labour
Rhys Devineq	Media staffer, Keir Starmer Opposition Leader
Ewan Donaldson	Digital Advertising Officer
Chris Elmore	Member of Parliament
David Evans	General Secretary, UK Labour
Matt Faulding	D/Head of PLP support office
Tony Fish	Councillor, Grays Riverside
Michael Fletcher	Councillor, Little Thurrock Blackshots
Amy Fode	Key Seat Unit
Vaughan Gething	First Minister of Wales
Aaron Green	Councillor, West Thurrock and South Stifford
Matt Greenough	Uk Labour
Vikki Hartstean	Councillor, Chafford and North Stifford
Lynda Heath	Councillor, Chafford and North Stifford

Mark Hooper	Councillor, Stifford Clays
Ruby Joseph	Training and Mobilisation Team UK Labour
Sadiq Kahn	Mayor of London
Assaf Kaplan	Digital, UK Labour
Ajay Kapoor	Candidate, Local Councillor
Cathy Kent	Grays Thurrock
John Kent*	Grays Thurrock
Martin Kerin	Grays Riverside
Randi Lawrence	Scottish Labour
Steve Liddiard	Tilbury St Chads
Tom LillyWhite	Digital, UK Labour
Carol Lindforth	Events and visits team
Joe Lock	Deputy General Secretary, Welsh Labour
Charlotte Malton	Charlotte Malton - Head of Strategy and Insight
Cici Manwa	Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park
Lily McCrae	PLP support office
Marianna McFadden	Deputy campaigns director
Pat McFadden	Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Gordon McKee	Scottish Labour
Kirsty McNeil	Midlothian
Morgan McSweeney	Campaign Director, UK Labour
Valerie Morris-Cook	Grays Riverside
Sara Muldowney	Chadwell St Mary
David Nelson	Anacta UK
Alike Ngozi	Councillor
Stewart Owadally	Staff of First Minister
Srikanth Panjala	Aveley and Uplands
Nancy Pelosi	Former US Speaker
Keiran Parker	Events and visits team

Ryan Polston	Ockendon
Kairen Raper	Tilbury St Chads
Hollie Ridley	Head of Target Seats
Rachel Rising	Regional Director UK
Marcus Roberts	YouGov
Caitlin Roper	Digital Organiser, Labour HQ
Nik Rutherford	Target Seat Digital Lead, Labour
Harjeet Sahota	Sadiq Khan Staffer
Pearleen Sangha	Mayor Campaign Manager
Bridie Sedgebeer	Organiser
Sue Shinnick	South Chafford
Alvin Shum	Organiser
Cathy Sisterson	Aveley and Uplands
Keir Starmer	Labour Leader
Victoria Solomon	Staff of First Minister
Emma Toal	London Labur Regional Director
Olivia Vaughn	Training and Mobilisation Team UK Labour
Rosie Huzzard	UNISON
Jonno Waters	National Education Union
Ella Watson	PLP support office
Gary Watson	South Chafford
Lee Watson	West Thurrock and South Stifford
Lynn Worrall	Grays Thurrock
Jasmine Yeandle	Organiser

ACCOMMODATION INVOICES.

UK Study tour

2024

Itinerary

Date	Brief of Meetings	Accom & Details
Sunday 14th April	Delayed due to flight and Iran/Israel missiles	Holiday Inn
Monday 15th April	Arrive	Holiday Inn
Tuesday 16th April	Recover from jetlag	Holiday Inn Hyde Park Executive Apartments
Wednesday 17th April	Connect with Ruby, Hollie Political canvass public housing Phonebanking	Hyde Park Executive Apartments
Thursday 18th April	Learning technologies Moodle representative for political LMS Misinformation meeting Labor Abroad meeting	Hyde Park Executive Apartments
Friday 19th April	Meetings: Moodle, articulate, charity learning consortium, dirty word elearning magazine Rhys devine Kerri's staffer UNISON meeting	Hyde Park Executive Apartments Britannia International Hotel Canary Wharf
Saturday 20th April	National Education Union	Britannia International Hotel Canary Wharf
Sunday 21st April	Attend campaign headquarters or go door knocking.	Britannia International Hotel Canary Wharf Stifford Hall Thurrock
Monday 22nd April	Meeting: Olivia Vaughan Head of Training and Mobilisation Meeting: Digital Team Tom Lilywhite / Caitlin Roper/ Josh Carrington / Assaf Kaplan Ad hoc meetings in meetings log	Stifford Hall Thurrock London Studio in Central London Olivia Vaughan olivia_vaughan@labour.org.uk

Itinerary

| Day	Activities	Location
Tuesday 23rd April	Meeting: David Evans Labour Party General Secretary Meeting: Data and Targeting - Tom Adams and Eden Bailey Meeting: Morgan McSweeney, Marianna McFadden & Pat McFadden Meeting: Strategy & Insight Charlotte Malton & Tom Brookes Dinner / Drinks Marcus Roberts (YouGov) & David Nelson Meetings continued. Ad hoc meetings in meetings log Thurrock Doorknock	Stifford Hall Thurrock Eurotraveller Hotel - Express
Wednesday 24th April	Meeting: Key Seats Unit - Amy Fode & Richard Bennett Meeting: Mayor's Office - Pearleen Sangha & Matt Greenough Meeting: External Relations Unit - Harjeet Sahota Meeting: Hollie Ridley Meet with Chris Elmore MP (Vice Party Chair)	Eurotraveller Hotel - Express
Thursday 25th April	Meeting: Events and Visits Team - Carol Lindforth & Keiran Parker Meeting: Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP Office) Matthew Faulding, Emma Watson & Lily McCrea Tour of Parliament Canvassing with David Evans - Labour Party General Secretary Brighton event	Eurotraveller Hotel - Express City London Hotel
Friday 26th April	Travel to Waleswith Louise Magee. Meetings with First Minister, Digital, organisers and tour of Parliament.	Kings Hotel Brighton Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock Two-hour train trip from London. Further transfer to Brighton
Saturday 27th April	Candidate and campaign events Brighton event	Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock UK Labour Party Headquarters 20 Rushworth Street, London, SE1 0RB
Sunday 28th April	Thurrock and Harlow campaign events CALD labour meeting location TBC	Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock Note: Strict check out time or fees charged

Itinerary

Day	Activity	Accommodation
Monday 29ᵗʰ April	Thurrock and Harlow meetings	Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock
Tuesday 30 April	Thurrock HQ meetings with councillors & candidates	Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock
Wednesday 1 May	Thurrock HQ meetings with councillors & candidates	Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock
Thursday 2ⁿᵈ May	Election Day!	Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock
Friday 3ʳᵈ May	Check out – travel to labour HQ	Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock Marlin Apartment London Bridge
Saturday 4ᵗʰ May	Check out accommodation. Delegates report summary meeting with Australian Labor delegates	Marlin Apartment London Bridge Mal Maison London
Sunday 5th May	Travel to Scotland by train University of Edinburgh interviews with Labour youth	Holiday Inn Express - Glasgow
Monday 6th May	Speak to Labour candidate Kirsty McNeil and Randi Lawrence Canvass with Kirsty McNeil and Randi Lawrence Dinner with team	Holiday Inn Express - Glasgow
Tuesday 7th May	Training with UK Labour Workers history tour Union House Glasgow	Holiday Inn Express - Glasgow
Wednesday 8th May	Tour of Parliament in Scotland First minister's questions Prepare for departure and report	Holiday Inn Express - Glasgow
Thursday 9th May	Prepare for departure and report	Holiday Inn Express - Glasgow
Friday 10th May	Glasgow - london flight	Holiday Inn Express - Glasgow
Saturday 11th May	London to QatarQatar to Melbourne	
Sunday 12th May	Arrive	

Itinerary

Invoices for accommodation

Itinerary
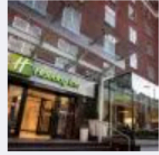
Holiday Inn London Kensington High St., an IHG Hotel

Address: Wrights Lane, Kensington and Chelsea, London, W8 5SP, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 7368 4041
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 29.931, W 00° 11.522

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
13 APRIL *Saturday* 🕐 from 15:00	**16** APRIL *Tuesday* 🕐 until 12:00	**1**	**3**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

AUD 690
AUD 138

Price

approx. AUD 828
£428.85

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Holiday Inn London Kensington High St., an IHG Hotel handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Holiday Inn London Kensington High St., an IHG Hotel in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
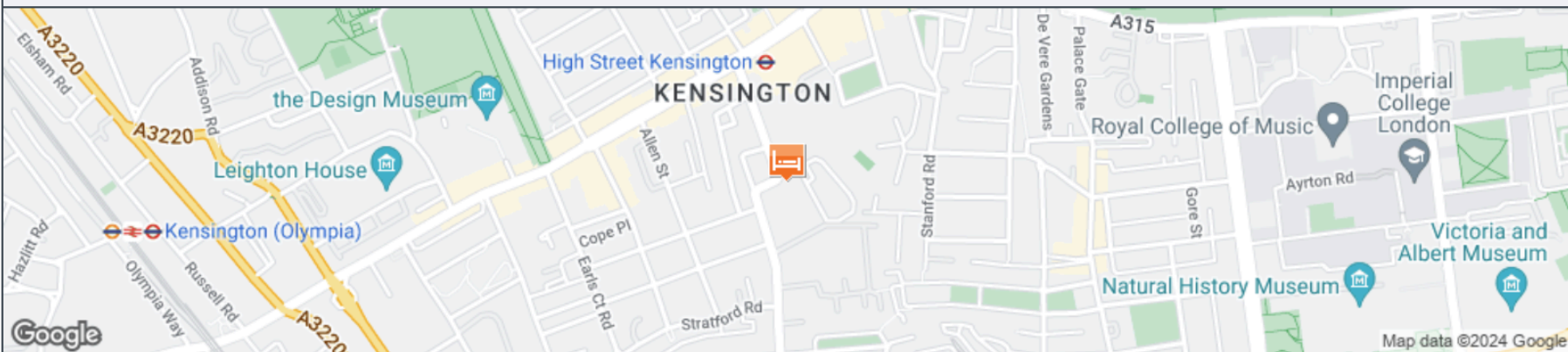The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Standard Room - Single Use

Guest name: Nadia Montague / for 2 adult, 1 child (up to 0 years of age)
Meal plan: No meal is included in this room rate.

Private Bathroom • Free toiletries • Air conditioning • Safe • Toilet • Bathtub or shower • Towels • Linens • Telephone • Ironing facilities • Satellite channels • Tea/Coffee maker • Iron • Radio • Pay-per-view channels • Interconnecting room(s) available • Heating • Flat-screen TV • Hairdryer • Carpeted • Electric kettle • Wake-up service • Alarm clock • Wardrobe or closet • Upper floors accessible by elevator • Toilet paper
Bed Size(s): 2 twin beds (90-130 cm wide) Or 1 full bed (131-150 cm wide)

Prepayment :

Itinerary

Hyde Park Executive Apartments

Address: 8-18 Inverness Terrace, Westminster Borough, London, W2 3HU, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 7229 9299
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 30.674, W 00° 11.152

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
16 APRIL *Tuesday* ⏱ from 14:00	**19** APRIL *Friday* ⏱ until 11:00	**1**	/ **3**

PRICE

1 unit   AUD 363
20 % VAT   AUD 72

Price   approx. **AUD 435**

£225.60

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Hyde Park Executive Apartments handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Hyde Park Executive Apartments in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.
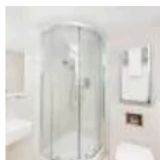

Standard Double Studio

Guest name: Nadia Montague / for max. 2 people.
Meal plan: There is no meal included in the rate for this apartment.

Private Bathroom • Free toiletries • Shower • Toilet • Hardwood or parquet floors • Towels • Linens • TV • Refrigerator • Microwave • Heating • Flat-screen TV • Kitchenware • Kitchenette • Electric kettle • Wake-up service • Wardrobe or closet • Toaster • Upper floors accessible by elevator • Private apartment in building • Toilet paper

Prepayment :

Itinerary
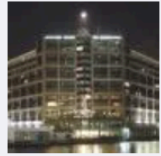
Britannia International Hotel Canary Wharf
Address: 163 Marsh Wall, Docklands,, Tower Hamlets, London, E14 9SJ, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 7712 0100
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 30.106, W 00° 1.419

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
19 APRIL *Friday* ⊙ 15:00 - 23:30	**21** APRIL *Sunday* ⊙ 00:00 - 10:00	**1**	**2**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

AUD 365
AUD 73

Price

approx. AUD 438
£227

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.
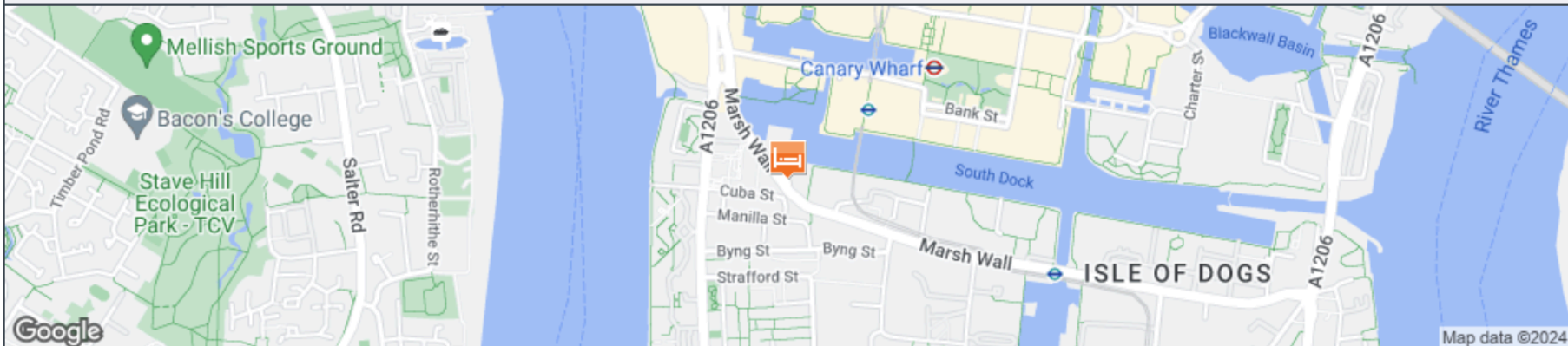
Payment Info
Britannia International Hotel Canary Wharf handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Britannia International Hotel Canary Wharf in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Itinerary

Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock

Address: High Road, North Stifford, Grays, Grays Thurrock, RM16 5UE, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1708 719988
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 29.995, E 00° 18.763

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
21 APRIL *Sunday* ⏱ from 14:00	**23** APRIL *Tuesday* ⏱ until 11:00	**1** /	**2**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

Price

AUD 275
AUD 55

approx. AUD 330
£171

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.
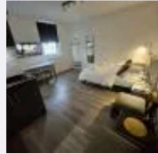
Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Itinerary

Studio in central London

Address: 2-3 London Road, Southwark, London, SE1 6JZ, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 7853 346185
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 29.893, W 00° 6.270

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
22 APRIL	**23** APRIL	**1**	**1**
Monday	Tuesday		
🕓 from 15:00	🕓 until 11:00		

PRICE

1 unit   AUD 206
20 % VAT   AUD 41

Price   approx. AUD 247
                                                                           £128

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Studio in central London handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Studio in central London in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.
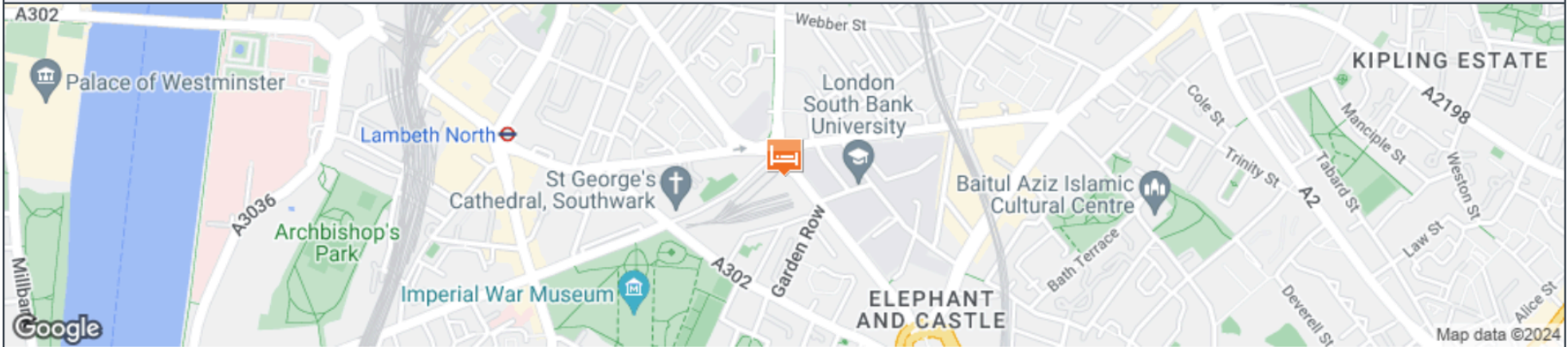
Itinerary
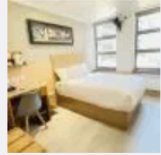
Eurotraveller Hotel- Express (Elephant & Castle)

Address: 18 Amelia Street, Southwark, London, SE17 3PY, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 7358 6876
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 29.397, W 00° 5.864

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
23 APRIL *Tuesday* ⏱ from 14:00	**25** APRIL *Thursday* ⏱ until 11:00	**1** /	**2**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

Price

AUD 414
AUD 83

approx. **AUD 497**

£257.58

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
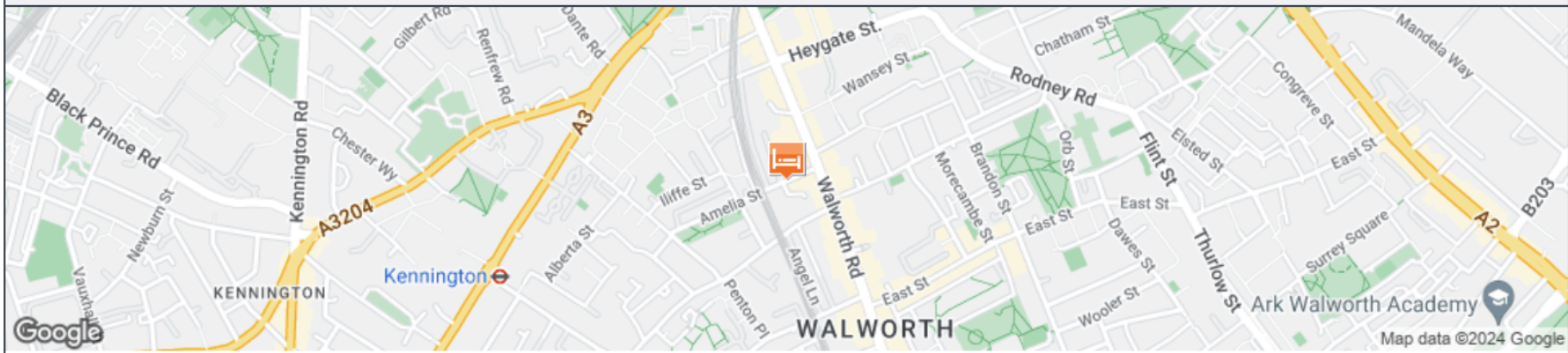Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Eurotraveller Hotel- Express (Elephant & Castle) handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Eurotraveller Hotel- Express (Elephant & Castle) in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Itinerary
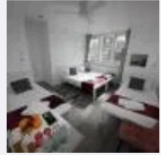
City London Hotel
Address: 30 Borough Road, Southwark, London, SE1 0AJ, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 7593 1300
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 29.943, W 00° 6.111

	CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
	25 APRIL *Thursday* 🕑 14:00 - 00:00	**26** APRIL *Friday* 🕑 until 11:00	**1**	**1**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

Price

AUD 159
AUD 32

approx. AUD 191
£99

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
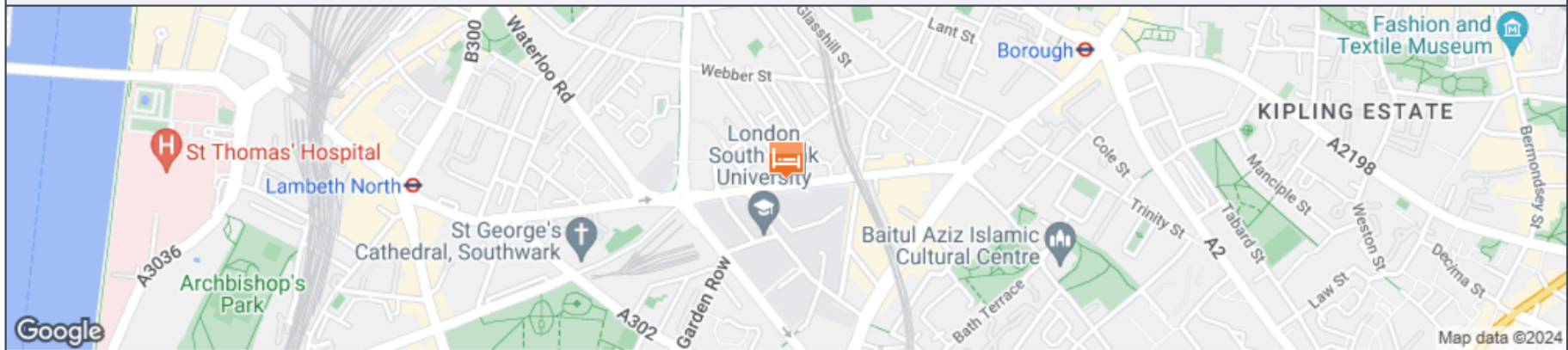Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
City London Hotel handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay City London Hotel in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Itinerary

Kings Hotel
Address: 139 - 141 Kings Road, Brighton & Hove, BN1 2NA, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1273 820854
GPS Coordinates: N 050° 49.340, W 00° 9.218

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
25 APRIL *Thursday* ⏱ from 15:00	**26** APRIL *Friday* ⏱ until 11:00	**1**	**1**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

Price

AUD 297
AUD 59

approx. AUD 356
£184.50

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Kings Hotel handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Kings Hotel in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
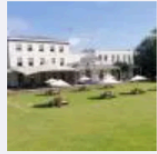Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Itinerary

Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock

Address: High Road, North Stifford, Grays, Grays Thurrock, RM16 5UE, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1708 719988
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 29.995, E 00° 18.763

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
26 APRIL *Friday* ⏱ from 14:00	**3** MAY *Friday* ⏱ until 11:00	**1** /	**7**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

Price

AUD 1,078
AUD 216

approx. AUD 1,294
£670.50

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Stifford Hall Hotel Thurrock in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Standard Double Room - Single Use

Guest name: Nadia Montague / for max. 2 people.
Meal plan: No meal is included in this room rate.

Private Bathroom • Free toiletries • Air conditioning • Toilet • Bathtub or shower • Towels • Linens • Desk • Sitting area • TV • Telephone • Ironing facilities • Satellite channels • Tea/Coffee maker • Radio • Heating • Flat-screen TV • Hairdryer • Wake-up service/Alarm clock • Carpeted • Electric kettle • Wake-up service • Upper floors accessible by elevator • Upper floors accessible by stairs only • Clothes rack • Toilet paper • Single-room AC for guest accommodation

Bed Size(s): 1 queen bed (151-180 cm wide)

Prepayment :

Itinerary

Marlin Apartments London Bridge - Empire Square
Address: 34 Long Lane, Southwark, London, SE1 4NH, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 7378 4840
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 30.058, W 00° 5.439

	CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
	3 MAY *Friday* 🕐 15:00 - 00:00	**4** MAY *Saturday* 🕐 01:00 - 10:30	**1** /	**1**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

AUD 304
AUD 61

Price

approx. AUD 365
£189

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Marlin Apartments London Bridge - Empire Square handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Marlin Apartments London Bridge - Empire Square in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Itinerary

Marlin Apartments London Bridge - Empire Square

Address: 34 Long Lane, Southwark, London, SE1 4NH, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 7378 4840
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 30.058, W 00° 5.439

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
26 APRIL *Friday* 🕐 15:00 - 00:00	**27** APRIL *Saturday* 🕐 01:00 - 10:30	**1**	**1**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

Price

AUD 304
AUD 61

approx. AUD 365
£189

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Marlin Apartments London Bridge - Empire Square handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Marlin Apartments London Bridge - Empire Square in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Itinerary

Malmaison London

Address: 18-21 Charterhouse Square, Islington, London, EC1M 6AH, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 7012 3700
GPS Coordinates: N 051° 31.257, W 00° 6.020

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
4 MAY *Saturday* ⏱ from 15:00	**5** MAY *Sunday* ⏱ until 11:00	**1** /	**1**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

Price

AUD 258
AUD 51

approx. AUD 309
£160.30

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info
Malmaison London handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info
You'll pay Malmaison London in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info
Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.

Itinerary

Holiday Inn Express - Glasgow - City Ctr Riverside, an IHG Hotel
Address: Stockwell Street, Central Glasgow, Glasgow, G1 4LW, United Kingdom
Phone: +44 371 902 1613
GPS Coordinates: N 055° 51.390, W 04° 14.980

CHECK-IN	CHECK-OUT	UNITS	NIGHTS
5 MAY *Sunday* ⏱ from 15:00	**10** MAY *Friday* ⏱ until 11:00	**1**	**5**

PRICE

1 unit
20 % VAT

Price

AUD 1,053
AUD 211

approx. AUD 1,264
£654.95

The final price shown is the amount you'll pay to the property.
Booking.com doesn't charge guests any reservation, administration, or other fees.
Your card issuer may charge you a foreign transaction fee.

Payment Info

Holiday Inn Express - Glasgow - City Ctr Riverside, an IHG Hotel handles all payments.
This property accepts the following forms of payment:

Currency & Exchange Rate Info

You'll pay Holiday Inn Express - Glasgow - City Ctr Riverside, an IHG Hotel in GBP according to the exchange rate on the day of payment.
The amount displayed in AUD is just an estimate based on **today's** exchange rate for GBP.

Additional Info

Note that additional supplements (e.g. an extra bed) aren't added in this total.
If you don't show up or cancel, applicable taxes may still be charged by the property.
Remember to read the **Important info** below – it could contain important details not mentioned here.