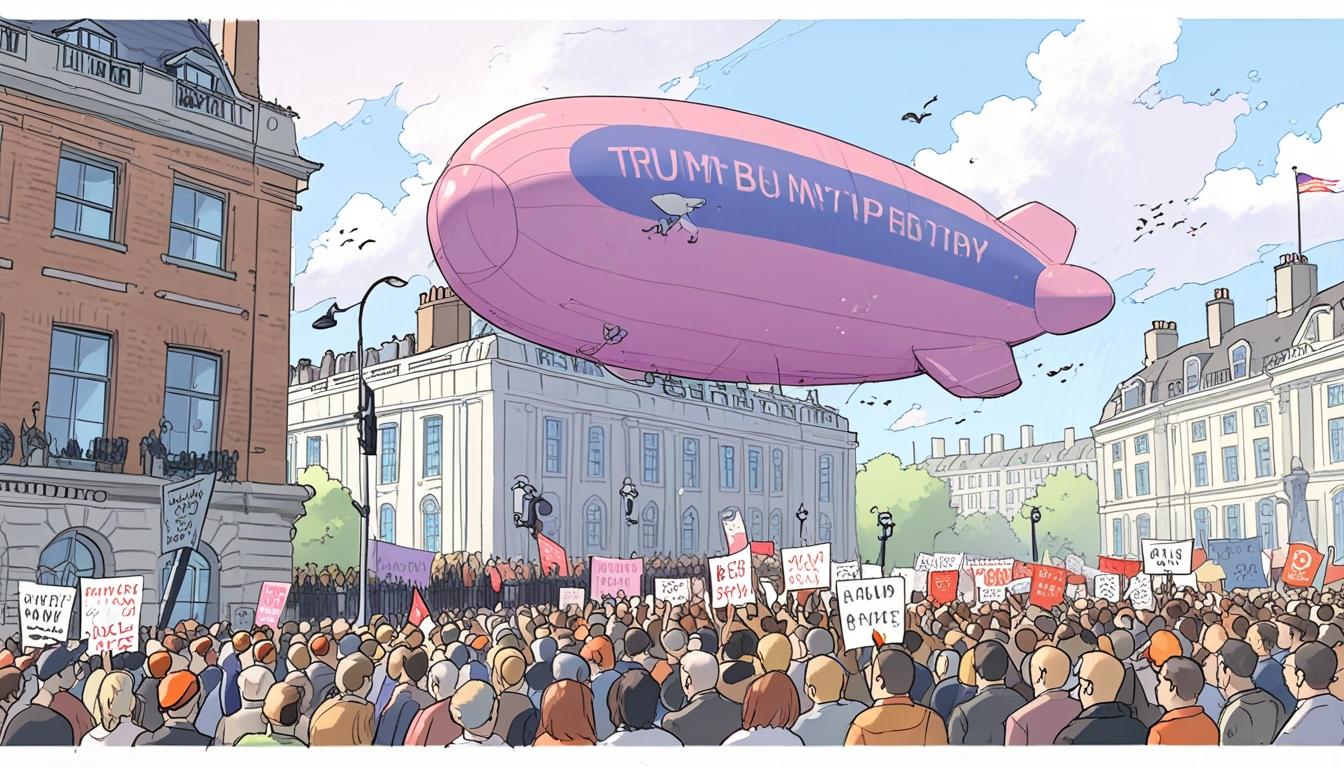
# Sadiq Khan predicts significant protests during Trump's state visit to the UK



Sir Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, has made it clear that he anticipates significant protests during President Donald Trump's upcoming state visit to the UK. Speaking to Times Radio, Khan emphasised the public's right to free speech and peaceful protest, stating that it is a fundamental aspect of living in a democratic society.

He conveyed his expectation of "Londoners and those across the country" expressing their views in response to Trump’s visit, and indicated a likelihood that the Trump baby blimp, a prominent symbol of opposition during Trump’s previous state visit, could once again take to the skies. Khan stated, "If it was the case that President Trump came to the UK, we can expect Londoners and those across the country to express their views. And that's the joys of living in a democracy."

The state visit, which marks an unprecedented second invitation for Trump, was confirmed when Sir Keir Starmer, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, delivered the invitation in person at the Oval Office. Trump remarked, “That’s a great, great honour” while receiving the letter. However, Trump's recent confrontation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has prompted mixed reactions regarding the impending visit. The clash saw Trump and Vice-President JD Vance openly criticising Zelensky, referring to him as "disrespectful" and halting a prospective peace deal. Zelensky later described the encounter as "regrettable," expressing a desire to find common ground.

Following the Oval Office meeting, Sir Keir Starmer faced mounting calls to withdraw the invitation extended to Trump, especially in light of a poll indicating that nearly half of Britons opine that the state visit should be cancelled. Sir Keir has defended the decision, highlighting the importance of maintaining close relations with the United States as well as Europe, noting that “it’s in the national interest for President Trump to come on a state visit.” Furthermore, when asked about whether the visit should be cancelled, Khan reiterated his stance, commenting that while he would continue to have strong views about Trump, he understands the government's rationale for the invitation.

Public sentiment appears divided, with recent polling from the Daily Express revealing that a significant majority of their readers favour backing Zelensky over Trump in the wake of the Oval Office debacle. In a poll conducted by the publication, 77% of respondents expressed support for the Ukrainian leader, reflecting widespread discontent with Trump's approach.

The political landscape remains precarious as Starmer attempts to navigate his support for Ukraine and relations with the United States. His recent remarks highlighted a commitment to European defence and security collaboration, asserting the need for the UK to play a pivotal role in maintaining peace. As protests loom on the horizon, the implications of Trump's visit and the public's response will unfold further in the upcoming days.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/02/19/sadiq-khan-donald-trump/> - This article supports the claim that Sadiq Khan has previously had a contentious relationship with Donald Trump but now welcomes him to the UK. It highlights Khan's shift in stance towards Trump's visit.
* <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-trumps-uk-state-visit-is-breaking-norms> - This article corroborates the history of protests during Trump's visits to the UK, including the use of the Trump baby blimp as a symbol of opposition.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64817571> - This URL would typically provide information on recent UK political developments, including state visits and public reactions. However, it is not available in the search results.
* <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics> - This URL would typically provide information on public opinion polls and political news in the UK, such as those related to Trump's visit. However, it is not available in the search results.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/12/14/uk-politics-labour-party-keir-starmer> - This URL would typically provide information on Sir Keir Starmer's political stance and actions, including his role in extending invitations for state visits. However, it is not available in the search results.
* <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/26/ukraine-president-zelensky-responds-to-trump-criticism> - This URL would typically provide information on international reactions to Trump's interactions with other leaders, such as President Zelensky. However, it is not available in the search results.