# Trump’s UK visit risks reigniting legal battles over Steele dossier claims



Former U.S. President Donald Trump’s forthcoming state visit to the UK later this month is set to revive tensions stemming from his protracted legal dispute with Christopher Steele, the former British spy behind the infamous Steele dossier. The dossier, which contained unverified and incendiary claims alleging Russian possession of compromising material on Trump and suggesting ties between his 2016 election campaign and Russia, has been at the heart of various investigations and legal battles over the past several years.

Christopher Steele, who founded Orbis Business Intelligence, was awarded more than £600,000 in legal costs after successfully defending himself against Trump's lawsuit, which sought to challenge the dossier's damaging claims. The High Court in London dismissed Trump’s data protection lawsuit, ruling that there were no compelling reasons for the case to proceed to trial. The judge noted Trump's considerable delay in addressing the dossier's impact on his reputation, which weakened his legal position. According to court reports, Trump has so far refused to pay approximately £290,000 in legal fees, prompting warnings from the court that failure to settle could limit his ability to participate in further related proceedings.

The costs awarded to Steele’s company continue to accumulate, rising daily and expected to be even higher by the time Trump’s official visit to the UK commences. During the visit, King Charles and Queen Camilla will host Trump and his wife Melania at Windsor Castle for a state banquet, the highlight of his stay, scheduled between September 17 and 19. Parliament will be in recess during this period, a move viewed as likely preventing the controversy that might have erupted had Trump addressed the Commons, given his contentious standing in British political and legal circles.

At the heart of the original dispute were claims made in the dossier about Trump's personal conduct, including allegations of participation in sex parties in St Petersburg and associations with sex workers in Moscow, as well as accusations of bribery involving Russian officials to advance his business interests. Trump's legal team contended that these were “shocking and scandalous” falsehoods that caused significant personal and reputational harm. However, Orbis Business Intelligence maintained that the dossier was never intended for public release and that its publication by the media was unauthorized.

This legal saga adds to Trump’s extensive portfolio of ongoing legal challenges, including civil fraud trials and multiple criminal investigations in the United States. The UK court rulings and resulting financial penalties underscore the international dimensions of Trump's legal battles and spotlight the sensitive relations between the UK and the US when it comes to matters of intelligence and political interference.

Government insiders have suggested that Trump’s non-compliance with the court order on legal costs, coupled with his impending arrival on British soil, could prompt fresh legal challenges, potentially turning the visit into a diplomatic headache. While Orbis Business Intelligence has declined to comment on the latest developments, the firm has previously expressed satisfaction with the court’s dismissal of Trump’s claims, describing the allegations as baseless.

As Trump prepares to set foot in the UK once again, the unresolved legal disputes surrounding the Steele dossier are likely to add a complex and controversial backdrop to what is slated to be a high-profile and ceremonious state visit.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15073291/Trump-state-visit-UK-British-spy-claim-Russia.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.axios.com/2024/02/02/trump-steele-dossier-uk-lawsuit), [[7]](https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/01/donald-trumps-lawsuit-over-steele-dossier-thrown-out-by-uk-court.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15073291/Trump-state-visit-UK-British-spy-claim-Russia.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/donald-trump-fails-pay-360000-legal-bill-over-failed-steele-dossier-lawsuit-uk-2025-01-29/), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/mar/07/trump-loses-lawsuit-steele-dossier), [[6]](https://www.axios.com/2024/02/02/trump-steele-dossier-uk-lawsuit), [[7]](https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/01/donald-trumps-lawsuit-over-steele-dossier-thrown-out-by-uk-court.html)
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* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15073291/Trump-state-visit-UK-British-spy-claim-Russia.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/535099946dc49c15640dfb8838fe2749), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/mar/07/trump-loses-lawsuit-steele-dossier), [[5]](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/uk-judge-dismisses-trumps-lawsuit-over-dossier-containing-shocking-and-scandalous-claims), [[6]](https://www.axios.com/2024/02/02/trump-steele-dossier-uk-lawsuit), [[7]](https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/01/donald-trumps-lawsuit-over-steele-dossier-thrown-out-by-uk-court.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15073291/Trump-state-visit-UK-British-spy-claim-Russia.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/donald-trump-fails-pay-360000-legal-bill-over-failed-steele-dossier-lawsuit-uk-2025-01-29/)
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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15073291/Trump-state-visit-UK-British-spy-claim-Russia.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/535099946dc49c15640dfb8838fe2749> - A London judge dismissed former U.S. President Donald Trump's lawsuit against Orbis Business Intelligence, accusing the firm of making false claims in a 2016 dossier that allegedly harmed his reputation. The judge ruled that there were no compelling reasons for the case to proceed to trial, noting that Trump had waited years to address the dossier's claims. The ruling adds to Trump's ongoing legal challenges, including civil fraud trials and multiple criminal cases in the U.S.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/donald-trump-fails-pay-360000-legal-bill-over-failed-steele-dossier-lawsuit-uk-2025-01-29/> - A London court was informed that former U.S. President Donald Trump is refusing to pay £290,000 ($360,000) in legal fees after his data protection lawsuit against Orbis Business Intelligence was dismissed. The lawsuit centered around the Steele dossier, which alleged ties between Trump's 2016 election campaign and Russia, along with other claims that Trump denied. Judge Jason Rowley ruled that Trump must pay the fees within 28 days or be barred from addressing the court in April on further legal fee disputes.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/mar/07/trump-loses-lawsuit-steele-dossier> - Former U.S. President Donald Trump lost a lawsuit against Orbis Business Intelligence, the firm founded by ex-MI6 agent Christopher Steele. The lawsuit, filed in London, alleged that the 2016 Steele dossier contained false claims that damaged Trump's reputation. Judge Karen Steyn dismissed the case, stating that there were no compelling reasons to allow it to proceed to trial. The ruling adds to Trump's ongoing legal challenges, including civil fraud trials and multiple criminal cases in the U.S.
5. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/uk-judge-dismisses-trumps-lawsuit-over-dossier-containing-shocking-and-scandalous-claims> - A London judge dismissed former U.S. President Donald Trump's lawsuit against Orbis Business Intelligence, accusing the firm of making false claims in a 2016 dossier that allegedly harmed his reputation. The judge ruled that there were no compelling reasons for the case to proceed to trial, noting that Trump had waited years to address the dossier's claims. The ruling adds to Trump's ongoing legal challenges, including civil fraud trials and multiple criminal cases in the U.S.
6. <https://www.axios.com/2024/02/02/trump-steele-dossier-uk-lawsuit> - A British High Court judge dismissed former President Trump's privacy lawsuit against former U.K. spy Christopher Steele and his firm, Orbis Business Intelligence. The lawsuit, pertaining to the contentious 2017 Steele dossier which contained unverified claims about Trump, alleged violations of data protection laws. Judge Steyn remarked that Trump's prolonged delay in addressing the dossier's impact on his reputation weakened the case. Orbis Business Intelligence expressed satisfaction with the ruling, claiming the lawsuit was baseless.
7. <https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/01/donald-trumps-lawsuit-over-steele-dossier-thrown-out-by-uk-court.html> - Former U.S. President Donald Trump's data protection lawsuit against a British private investigations firm over a dossier which alleged ties between Trump's campaign and Russia was thrown out by London's High Court. Trump had sued Orbis Business Intelligence about claims in a dossier written by former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele, who co-founded Orbis. Judge Karen Steyn ruled that the former U.S. president's case could not continue, saying in a written ruling that 'there are no compelling reasons to allow the claim to proceed to trial'.