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From: [Redacted]
Sent: 23 October 2017 12:55
To: All EC Staff - All Sites; Commissioners Protected
Subject: In the News - Monday 23 October 2017

Foreign interference and “Twitter bots”

A [Buzzfeed](#) report has “found” that “[r]esearchers have uncovered new evidence of networks of thousands of suspect Twitter bots working to influence the Brexit debate in the run-up to the EU referendum. “The findings, from researchers at City, University of London, include a network of more than 13,000 suspected bots that tweeted predominantly pro-Brexit messages before being deleted or removed from Twitter in the weeks following the vote. The research – which is published in the peer-reviewed Social Science Computer Review journal and was shared exclusively with BuzzFeed News – suggests the suspected bot accounts were eight times more likely to tweet pro-leave than pro-remain content.”

In response to the article [Mark Pack](#) writes that “[b]ots are to social media rather like uncontrolled spending on direct mail. In both cases they allow the volume of what is otherwise legitimate activity to be greatly inflated by means that are highly desirable.” On tackling these bots Mark suggests that Twitter users don’t only think about what “Twitter or its regulators do; it’s also about what you do with your own Twitter account.”

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