

WESTMINSTER VOICES

Accent, authenticity and
representation in UK politics

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Members of parliament and members of the House of Lords are heard constantly – in debates, committees, media appearances and across public life.

Yet we know surprisingly little about how accent and speaking style shape their professional experiences.

Westminster Voices is a research project which explores how voice — both as speech and as democratic representation — shapes contemporary British political life.



WHY THIS RESEARCH MATTERS



VOICES REPRESENT COMMUNITIES

Speaking is central to parliament. Accent and speaking style can shape perceptions of authenticity, identity, expertise and connection to place.



EXPERIENCES REMAIN UNDER- RESEARCHED

Politicians are often judged for how they speak, yet no research has explored how they experience and interpret this scrutiny.

“ In politics, how something is said can matter as much as what is said. ”

TAKE PART



We are inviting MPs and members of the House of Lords to share their experiences of accent, authenticity and representation in Westminster in a short interview.

Your participation will help build a deeper understanding of how voice shapes political life and democratic representation

