

Conservative

Major individual donors funding the Conservative Party.

- [Frank Hester](#)
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Frank Hester

Frank Hester — Conservative's Biggest Individual Donor

Full name: Frank Hester OBE **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £10-15 million **Source of wealth:** Founder and CEO of The Phoenix Partnership (TPP) — Leeds-based healthcare software company that provides the SystemOne electronic patient record system used widely across the NHS. **Why they donate:** Publicly supports Conservative economic policy and tax cuts. Has expressed admiration for "business-friendly" governance. Also advocates for NHS technology reform, aligning with Tory digital-health plans. **Controversies:** In March 2024, The Guardian reported Hester allegedly made highly offensive comments about Diane Abbott MP — reportedly saying she "makes you want to hate all black women" and that she "should be shot." Hester later apologised, saying the remarks were "rude" but not racist. Labour called for return of donations. The Tories initially defended him, then distanced themselves. The scandal dominated headlines for weeks and became a major political issue.

Notes

- The largest single donor to the Conservative Party in the 2024 election cycle
- His NHS software company has significant government contracts — raising conflict of interest questions
- The Abbott remarks scandal was a key Labour attack line in early 2024

Lord Bamford / JCB

Lord Bamford / JCB — Conservative Donors

Full name: Sir Anthony Bamford (Anthony Paul Bamford, Baron Bamford — Lord Bamford) **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £8-12 million (via JCB and Bamford family trusts; historic total exceeds £30m) **Source of wealth:** Chairman of JCB (JC Bamford Excavators Ltd) — Staffordshire-based construction equipment giant. Family worth estimated at £5bn+. **Why they donate:** Long-standing personal and business relationship with the Conservative Party. Famously Eurosceptic; major Brexit donor. Supports pro-business, pro-manufacturing, low-regulation Conservatism. **Controversies:** In 2023-2024, JCB was criticised for supplying construction equipment to Russia despite sanctions. JCB said it complied with all UK sanctions. In 2024, Bamford donated £5m to the Tories amid the election campaign, reigniting "cash for honours" criticism — his peerage (awarded by Cameron in 2013) was seen by some as linked to past donations. Also controversy over JCB's tax arrangements, including dormant offshore accounts.

Notes

- One of the Conservative Party's most consistent long-term supporters
- Also funds Conservative constituency associations directly
- His peerage remains controversial among transparency campaigners

Mohamed Mansour

Mohamed Mansour — Conservative Senior Treasurer

Full name: Mohamed Mansour **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £3-5 million **Source of wealth:** Egyptian billionaire; family owns Mansour Group (GM dealerships, consumer goods, finance, and a global conglomerate). Estimated family wealth \$5bn+. **Why they donate:** Senior Conservative Party treasurer (appointed 2023). Supports the party's pro-business, international trade agenda. **Controversies:** Highly controversial due to Egyptian political ties — Mansour is closely linked to the Mubarak regime and has faced questions about Egyptian money in UK politics. Some Labour MPs raised concerns over foreign money in the Conservative Party. His appointment as treasurer drew significant criticism, given his Egyptian citizenship and business links to the authoritarian Sisi regime.

Notes

- Despite being Egyptian, he is a legal donor as a UK-registered business owner
- His role as senior treasurer raised questions about overseas influence on UK politics
- The largest individual donor of Egyptian origin in UK political history

Lord Cruddas (Peter Cruddas)

Peter Cruddas (Lord Cruddas)

— Conservative Donor & Co-Treasurer

Full name: Peter Cruddas — Lord Cruddas of Shoreditch **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £3-5 million (historic total over £5m) **Source of wealth:** Founder of CMC Markets (spread-betting / CFD trading platform, founded 1989). Major City of London figure. **Why they donate:** Strong Eurosceptic; campaigned heavily for Brexit. Supports low tax, deregulation, free markets. Served as Conservative Party Co-Treasurer (2019-2022) and as a major fundraiser. **Controversies:** In 2012, caught in a Sunday Times sting offering access to PM David Cameron in exchange for £250k donations. He resigned as party treasurer. Despite the scandal, granted a peerage by Boris Johnson in 2020, which was heavily criticised by transparency campaigners. In 2024-2025 continued to donate and fundraise, drawing ongoing scrutiny over "cash-for-access" concerns.

Notes

- The 2012 scandal was one of the most damaging cash-for-access stories of the Cameron era
- His peerage under Johnson despite the scandal highlighted cronyism concerns
- Still active as a donor and fundraiser through his various business interests

John Caudwell

John Caudwell — Conservative Donor (Phones4u)

Full name: John Caudwell **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £1.5-3 million **Source of wealth:** Founder of Phones4u (mobile phone retailer). Sold the company in 2006 for £1.5 billion. Also property investor. **Why they donate:** Strongly pro-Brexit and anti-Labour. Supports small government, lower taxes. Believes Labour under Starmer would be economically damaging and soft on defence. Has urged Reform UK to stand aside in some seats to avoid vote-splitting. **Controversies:** Faced criticism for his wealth and political influence, though no major personal scandals. In 2023, drew attention for calling for reform of the NHS, which he has been a vocal critic of. Questions over whether his massive donations buy undue access.

Notes

- Major donor to Conservative candidates, especially in his native Staffordshire
- One of the few Tory donors who has publicly called for cooperation with Reform UK
- His wealth comes entirely from mobile phone retail — a uniquely British business success story

Alexander Temerko

Alexander Temerko — Conservative Donor (Ex-Yukos)

Full name: Alexander Temerko **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £600k-1.2 million (lifetime total over £3m) **Source of wealth:** Former Russian oil executive. Worked for Yukos under Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Became British citizen. Now a UK-based businessman and investor in energy — notably the Aquind interconnector project (submarine power cable between UK and France). **Why they donate:** Outspokenly anti-Putin; donates to support "a strong, stable, pro-business UK government that stands up to Russian aggression." Donated heavily to pro-Brexit campaigns. Also funds Conservative MPs in marginal seats. **Controversies:** Donations draw scrutiny over foreign donation rules — he is a British citizen so donations are legal, but critics question the influence of ex-Russian oligarchs in UK politics. In 2020-2021, the Aquind interconnector was linked to lobbying controversies (accusations of improper access to ministers). Temerko maintains donations are lawful and transparent.

Notes

- One of several former Russian businessmen who have become significant Tory donors
- His Aquind project faced significant political and regulatory hurdles
- Actively funds Conservative MPs in marginal seats, not just the central party

Mohamed Amersi

Mohamed Amersi — Conservative Donor

Full name: Mohamed Amersi **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £500k-1.5 million (lifetime over £2m) **Source of wealth:** Telecommunications and media. Made fortune through Emerging Markets Communications (EMC), a satellite communications company. Also lobbying and consultancy via the Amersi Foundation. **Why they donate:** Supports Conservatives' approach to international trade, especially with emerging markets. Describes himself as a "Conservative internationalist." Has also funded Conservative MPs' campaigns directly. **Controversies:** In 2023-2024, accused of involvement in an alleged "cash-for-access" scandal, offering to broker meetings with ministers. The Conservative Party launched an investigation — Amersi denies wrongdoing. Also linked to Ethiopian political lobbying controversy. Stripped of his role as a Conservative Party donor board member in 2024 amid the inquiry.

Notes

- His fall from favour within Conservative circles was notable — went from donor board member to investigated figure
- The Ethiopian political links relate to lobbying for the Ethiopian government during the Tigray conflict