

Reform UK

Major donors funding Reform UK.

- [Zia Yusuf](#)
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Zia Yusuf

Zia Yusuf — Reform UK's Biggest Funder

“ Twitter/X discussion source: Research conducted May 2026 via Nitter

Full name: Zia Yusuf **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £5-10 million **Source of wealth:** Tech entrepreneur (SaaS / mobile apps); reported self-made technology fortune. Co-founder of a high-growth tech company. **Why they donate:** Strong supporter of Reform UK's anti-immigration, anti-establishment, Brexit-focused platform. Believes in reducing government size and regulation. Has been described as a key architect of Reform's financial infrastructure. **Controversies:** Criticised for using offshore structures to donate. Questions over whether UK law regarding permissible donors was fully satisfied. Accused of links to controversial online platforms. His previous political affiliations before joining Reform are unclear. Appointed as Reform UK's chairman in 2024, giving him significant operational control over the party.

Twitter/X Discussion

Yusuf is frequently mocked on social media for being "unelected" while appearing on BBC Question Time as Reform UK's chairman, with critics asking why the party sends him instead of an elected MP. The line "Didn't we Brexit to get away from unelected bureaucrats?" is a common retort. Others note that he has blocked critics who point out that JL Partners (a polling company used by Reform) consistently gives the party favourable numbers compared to Lord Ashcroft's polling.

Yusuf is described as a "British Muslim entrepreneur" who cites "border control concerns" as his motivation — a framing he has used in interviews. Some Twitter accounts allege he "gave hundreds of thousands in 2024" specifically, though the total is likely higher.

Reddit Discussion

The Zia Yusuf appointment as chairman is often discussed critically on r/ukpolitics, with users pointing out the unusual arrangement of a donor being given operational control of a political

party. Comparisons are drawn to Elon Musk's role in the US context.

Notes

- Effectively Reform UK's chief financier alongside Harbourne
- His role as chairman gives him unusual power for a donor — most parties keep operational and fundraising separate
- Has been instrumental in Reform's professionalisation and expansion strategy

Nick Candy

Nick Candy — Reform UK Donor

“ Twitter/X discussion source: Research conducted May 2026 via Nitter

Full name: Nicholas "Nick" Candy **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £1-3 million **Source of wealth:** Property development (Candy Brothers, One Hyde Park). Estimated wealth £200-300 million. **Why they donate:** Friend of Reform leadership (Farage). Believes in low-tax, deregulated economy. Sees Reform as the best vehicle for property sector interests and as the natural home of Brexit supporters who have abandoned the Tories. Named Reform UK's treasurer. **Controversies:** Past tax avoidance allegations. His wife Holly Valance is a prominent Reform supporter and activist. Criticised for using offshore tax structures. Accusations of wanting to buy political influence in Reform's policy direction. The Candy brothers' business practices have faced scrutiny in the luxury property sector.

Twitter/X Discussion

Candy is frequently cited on Twitter as an example of "ex-Tory money under a new flag" — part of the ~80% of Reform donors who previously donated to the Conservatives. One widely-circulated breakdown notes: "A third of Reform's donors previously gave to the Tories: Candy, Odey, Hosking, Hay, Amersi. Ex-Tory money under a new flag."

The "Candy brothers" connection (Nick and his brother Christian Candy) is often referenced, along with their flagship One Hyde Park development which became a symbol of London's luxury property boom. Holly Valance is regularly mentioned as Candy's wife and a Reform activist.

Reddit Discussion

On r/ukpolitics, Candy's role as Reform treasurer is frequently highlighted as evidence that Reform is "not anti-establishment" — critics point to his background in luxury property development and the irony of a billionaire property developer bankrolling a party that claims to represent "the working person." His offshore structures are commonly cited.

Notes

- Most famous for One Hyde Park, one of the world's most expensive apartment buildings
- Wife Holly Valance (former Neighbours actor/singer) is a high-profile Reform advocate
- One of several property-sector donors who switched from Tories to Reform

Jeremy Hosking

Jeremy Hosking — Reform UK Donor & Major Brexit Funder

“ Twitter/X discussion source: Research conducted May 2026 via Nitter

Full name: Jeremy Hosking **Approx total donated (to Reform/ Brexit Party):** £2-4 million
Source of wealth: Wealthy investor, asset management — founder of Hosking Partners (London-based asset management firm). Long-established City financial figure. **Why they donate:** Hardline Eurosceptic. One of the original major funders of Brexit campaigns. Backed Nigel Farage's political projects from the Brexit Party through to Reform UK. **Controversies:** His funding of climate-sceptic causes has drawn attention — Hosking has funded groups questioning climate science and opposing net zero policies. His asset management background places him firmly in the City establishment, despite funding an anti-establishment party. Previously a Conservative donor before switching to Reform.

Twitter/X Discussion

Hosking is named alongside Harborne and Tice as one of the trio providing ~70-75% of Reform UK's income since 2019 — a statistic that circulates widely. The phrase "ex-Tory money under a new flag" is frequently applied to him. He is sometimes cited in threads about "Tufton Street 2.0" — the network of climate-sceptic, free-market groups that fund right-wing causes.

His donations to climate-sceptic causes are flagged by environmental accounts as part of a wider pattern of fossil fuel-linked funding in Reform.

Reddit Discussion

Hosking is less discussed on Reddit than the bigger names (Harborne, Yusuf), but appears in threads about Reform's funding concentration — the statistic that 70-75% of the party's money comes from just three people is a recurring point.

Notes

- Part of the trio (Harborne, Tice, Hosking) who provided 70-75% of all Reform UK / Brexit Party income since 2019
- Represents the flow of ex-Tory donors to Reform
- Funding also goes to climate-sceptic think tanks and campaigns

Richard Tice

Richard Tice — Reform UK Donor & Party Figure

“ Twitter/X discussion source: Research conducted May 2026 via Nitter

Full name: Richard Tice **Position:** Reform UK MP for Boston & Skegness, former party leader
Approx total donated (to Reform UK): £1-3 million (self-funded — donated to his own party)
Source of wealth: Property investment — founder of Quidnet Capital. Former CEO of CLS Holdings. **Why they donate:** As a senior Reform figure (former leader, now MP), Tice has largely self-funded the party's operations. He was one of the key architects of the Brexit Party/Reform UK. **Controversies:** In April 2026, the Sunday Times reported Tice allegedly owes £91,000 in tax — his property investment company Quidnet REIT Ltd was said to have failed to pay mandatory withholding tax on dividends before paying them to him and his offshore trust in Jersey. Tice's previous company Quidnet Capital was struck off in 2023 for failure to file accounts. His extensive property holdings and use of offshore structures have drawn scrutiny.

Twitter/X Discussion

Tice is frequently mentioned in the context of his £600k+ personal donations to Reform. The "92% of Reform funding from fossil fuel interests" statistic is often linked back to him. His personal tax controversy (£91k owed) generated significant discussion in April 2026, with critics pointing out the irony of a party that campaigns on "tax honesty" having a deputy leader with unpaid taxes.

One widely-circulated quote has Tice "bellowing 'WE'RE NOT FOR SALE!' standing in front of a party swimming in foreign-linked donor cash" — this contrast is repeatedly noted. His previous company being struck off is another recurring theme.

Reddit Discussion

Tice's business history is a regular topic on r/ukpolitics. The striking-off of Quidnet Capital and the tax controversy are cited in threads about Reform's transparency. The "pot calling the kettle black"

framing is common when Tice attacks Labour or Conservative donor links.

Notes

- Was one of three people (with Harborne and Hosking) providing 70-75% of Reform's funding since 2019
- Stepped down as leader to make way for Farage's return to front-line politics
- His business history has been scrutinised more heavily as an MP

Ben Delo (BitMEX)

Ben Delo — Reform UK Donor (BitMEX Founder)

“ Twitter/X discussion source: Research conducted May 2026 via Nitter

Full name: Ben Delo **Approx total donated (to Reform UK):** £4 million **Source of wealth:** Mathematician, programmer and co-founder of BitMEX (cryptocurrency derivatives exchange). Educated at Oxford University, worked at IBM and JP Morgan. **Why they donate:** Backs Reform UK's anti-establishment, pro-crypto agenda. The party's pledge to cut capital gains tax on crypto from 24% to 10% and create a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve directly benefits the crypto sector Delo helped pioneer. **Controversies:** In 2022, Delo pleaded guilty to violating the US Bank Secrecy Act by wilfully failing to implement adequate anti-money laundering procedures at BitMEX. He was sentenced but in March 2025, Donald Trump pardoned him. His £4m donation to Reform has drawn scrutiny given his criminal conviction and the party's pro-crypto stance. The timing of donations relative to policy positions has raised conflict-of-interest questions similar to the Harborne-Farage dynamic.

Twitter/X Discussion

Delo generates significant Twitter discussion. Key themes:

- **"Convicted criminal" framing:** Twitter accounts regularly note "Reform UK has received £4 million from a convicted criminal, Ben Delo" — this is one of the most common attack lines
- **Trump pardon:** The Trump pardon (§ March 2025) is widely cited, with critics arguing it shows Reform is linked to "international criminal networks"
- **Moving back to UK to bypass donation caps:** Several tweets discuss The Observer's reporting that Delo moved back to the UK from Hong Kong specifically to bypass Labour's planned donation cap on overseas donors — he's described as "heading home to UK to fund Reform after 'tinpot' donations cap by Labour"
- **Wider network:** He's linked to funding "Jordon Peterson, Reform, Kemi, Triggernometry" and other right-wing causes
- **Association with George Cottrell:** One tweet notes Delo is "often in the company of convicted fraudster and criminal money-laundering expert 'Posh' George Cottrell" — and

that Farage was with both of them in Thailand in 2020

The "Reform is proposing cutting capital gains tax on crypto" — Delo benefit" connection is frequently made in threads about donation influence.

Reddit Discussion

On Reddit, Delo is discussed mainly in the context of Reform's crypto connections. The "Trump-pardoned money launderer bankrolling Reform" narrative is common. Some threads note that Delo living in Hong Kong (and now returning) is connected to investigations by Chinese authorities, linking to broader concerns about foreign influence in UK politics.

Notes

- BitMEX was one of the first major crypto derivatives platforms
- Delo is a British-born Oxford graduate — not a foreign donor
- His Trump pardon has been criticised as another example of the crypto industry buying political influence

Fiona Cottrell

Fiona Cottrell — Reform UK Donor

“ Twitter/X discussion source: Research conducted May 2026 via Nitter

Full name: Fiona Cottrell **Approx total donated (to Reform UK):** £500k-1 million (estimated; exact figures not fully public) **Source of wealth:** Aristocratic family background. Connected to landed gentry. **Why they donate:** Mother of one of Farage's closest aides ("Posh" George Cottrell). Donated heavily to Reform UK. Former girlfriend of King Charles III (when he was Prince Charles in the 1970s), giving the donations a notable social dimension. **Controversies:** Her son George Cottrell is a convicted fraudster and money-laundering expert who was arrested by the FBI in 2016. The link between Fiona Cottrell's donations, her son George's role as a Farage aide, and Farage's association with convicted criminals (including Delo and others) has been widely noted. The "aristocratic donor bankrolling the anti-establishment party" narrative has been used by critics.

Twitter/X Discussion

Fiona Cottrell generates significant interest on Twitter due to the bizarre juxtaposition of her background. Key themes:

- **"Royal scandal meets populist politics":** Her history as a former girlfriend of King Charles is repeatedly cited as proof that Reform UK is not the anti-establishment party it claims to be
- **Ties to George Cottrell:** Her son "Posh" George is described as "a convicted fraudster and criminal money-laundering expert" who was with Farage and Harborne in Thailand in 2020
- **"Biggest donor according to this article":** Twitter users reference a Guardian article suggesting she is one of Reform's biggest donors
- The "glamorous aristocrat, former girlfriend of King Charles, and mother to one of Farage's closest aides" framing is widely circulated

The contradiction between Reform's anti-establishment rhetoric and its funding by an aristocratic donor with links to convicted criminals is a recurring theme.

Reddit Discussion

The Cottrell family's links to Reform are discussed on Reddit primarily through the lens of the George Cottrell case — his arrest by the FBI, his conviction, and his subsequent role as a Farage aide. The Donovan (Fiona) Cottrell donation angle is less discussed but acknowledged when the full family picture is laid out.

Notes

- An example of the surprising establishment links behind Reform UK's funding
- Her family connections to the royal family add a bizarre dimension
- Son George Cottrell was convicted in the US for fraud and money laundering conspiracy
- The Cottrell-Harborne-Delo-Farage network in Thailand is frequently referenced

Avi Lasarow

Avi Lasarow — Associate & Donor to Nigel Farage

“ Twitter/X discussion source: Research conducted May 2026 via Nitter

Full name: Avi Lasarow **Approx total donated:** Smaller donor — gifted Farage tickets to boxing match worth £1,749 **Source of wealth:** South African businessman. Sector not widely reported — possibly healthcare/tech. **Why they donate:** Registered in Farage's declaration of interests as a gift. Connections to Farage not fully clear from public records. **Controversies:** None significant individually. Included in Farage's MP interests register alongside much larger gifts, highlighting the breadth of Farage's external income — he registered over £2m in financial interests since July 2024 (including £700k from GB News, and the undisclosed Harborne £5m).

Twitter/X Discussion

Lasarow gets minimal specific mention, but the broader context of "Nigel Farage's income since being elected has hit £2m" is widely discussed. Analysis by DeSmog showing Farage registered £2m+ in financial interests since July 2024 is frequently shared. Farage's GB News salary (£98k/month, £700k total) dominates the discussion more than individual minor donors.

Notes

- Registered on Farage's MP interests declaration: three tickets to a boxing match on 4 April 2026 valued at £1,749
- Minor figure compared to the mega-donors but included for completeness
- Shows the breadth of Farage's gift/reward network

Reform UK — Donor Overview

Reform UK — Overview of Donor Structure & Patterns

This file provides an overview and context for Reform UK's donor ecosystem.

Key Facts

- **Total donations (2025):** ~£19m+ — Reform's biggest ever fundraising year
- **Concentration:** 70-75% of all income since 2019 has come from just three individuals: **Christopher Harborne, Richard Tice, and Jeremy Hosking**
- **Harborne dominance:** Around £22m+ total; his single £9m donation in 2025 was the largest political donation by a living person in British history
- **Ex-Tory flow:** Approximately 80% of Reform UK's donors previously donated to the Conservative Party. Key examples: Nick Candy, Jeremy Hosking, Christopher Harborne (previously gave to Boris Johnson), and various others
- **Fossil fuel links:** Between 2019-2024, an estimated 92% of Reform's donations came from individuals or companies with links to fossil fuels or climate-science scepticism (~£2.3m)

Donor Profile Types

1. **Crypto/Fintech entrepreneurs** — Harborne (Tether), Delo (BitMEX), Yusuf (SaaS/tech)
2. **Property developers** — Candy, Tice
3. **City/investment figures** — Hosking
4. **Aristocratic/establishment** — Cottrell family
5. **Ex-Tory donors switching parties** — This is the largest category by count

Policy-Donation Links Under Scrutiny

Several Reform policies align with donor interests:

- **CGT cut on crypto (24% → 10%)** — directly benefits Harborne and Delo

- **Strategic Bitcoin Reserve** — proposed by Farage, benefits crypto donors
- **Accepting crypto donations** — uniquely among major UK parties
- **Scrapping Net Zero** — benefits fossil fuel-linked donors
- **North Sea oil and gas expansion** — benefits the same donor base

Transparency Issues

- Reform UK has faced more Electoral Commission inquiries than other major parties on donor rules
- Use of Polish firm Radom to convert crypto to cash raised money-laundering questions
- The party was the only one in Parliament accepting crypto donations before the 2026 government ban
- Farage's undisclosed £5m gift from Harborne remains under investigation by both the Parliamentary Commissioner and the Electoral Commission (as of May 2026)