

Political Donors

Profiles of major individual and organisational donors to UK political parties, covering the 2024-2026 period.

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Labour

Major donors and affiliated trade unions funding the Labour Party.

Labour

Lord Sainsbury

David Sainsbury — Labour's Biggest Individual Donor

Full name: David Sainsbury, Baron Sainsbury of Turville **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £8-10 million **Source of wealth:** Former chairman of Sainsbury's supermarket chain; family fortune estimated at £1.5 billion **Why they donate:** Long-time Labour supporter, science and innovation advocate, served as Science Minister under Tony Blair. Supports Labour as the most viable party for economic competence and public service investment. **Controversies:** Previous donations to Labour caused scrutiny over potential policy influence; his role as a Labour peer raises questions about donations and legislative influence. In 2024, his donations continued to be questioned in the context of Labour's ties to wealthy individuals.

Notes

- Consistently Labour's largest single individual donor for decades
- Owns the Sainsbury family's political giving — split with other family members who donate to Tories
- Has funded Labour's general election campaigns heavily, including £5m+ to the 2024 campaign
- Also funds Labour-aligned think tanks and policy groups

John Mills

John Mills — Labour Donor & Businessman

Full name: John Mills **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £4-5 million **Source of wealth:** Founder of JML (JML Group, televised consumer goods company); estimated wealth £150-200 million **Why they donate:** Long-standing Labour donor. Supports economic growth agenda, advocates for pro-business Labour policies. Also funds Labour Together think tank and various internal party groups. Has written extensively on economics. **Controversies:** Close ties to Labour leadership have attracted criticism over donations influencing party policy direction away from traditional left-wing positions. Some on the Labour left view his influence as pulling the party toward business-friendly centrism.

Notes

- Major donor to Labour Together, the key internal Labour organisation
- Also funds Progress, Labour's centrist internal faction
- Has been a consistent donor through multiple leaderships
- Strong advocate for Labour embracing business and enterprise

Labour

Gary Lubner (Oval Group)

Gary Lubner — Labour Donor (Oval Group)

Full name: Gary Lubner **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £1.5-3 million (via Oval, his insurance/money services company) **Source of wealth:** Founder/CEO of Oval (financial services, insurance technology); also involvement in banking and fintech **Why they donate:** Supports Labour's business-friendly agenda. Advocates for financial services sector interests within Labour. **Controversies:** Questions over whether Oval donations represent corporate rather than personal giving. Scrutiny over Labour's ties to the financial services sector under Starmer.

Notes

- Oval has donated significantly via corporate structures
- Lubner's donations mirror a broader trend of financial services backing Starmer's Labour
- Part of a cohort of wealthy businesspeople who shifted support from Tories to Labour

Unite the Union

Unite the Union — Labour's Largest Union Funder

Full name: Unite the Union **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £3-5 million (via affiliation fees, direct donations, and campaign support) **Type:** Trade union — Labour's largest union affiliate **Why they donate:** Represents working-class interests across manufacturing, transport, public services, and logistics. Seeks to influence Labour's industrial relations, workers' rights, and nationalisation policy. **Controversies:** Internal factional battles within Labour have been heavily influenced by Unite. Accusations of "block vote" influence over candidate selection and policy direction. Under previous leader Len McCluskey, Unite was a major force in Labour's leftward shift. Current leadership under Sharon Graham has been more focused on industrial action but remains influential.

Notes

- Around 1.2 million members
- Also funds Labour MPs directly through constituency donations
- Was central to the factional battles of the Corbyn era
- Sharon Graham's leadership has deprioritised internal Labour politics relative to industrial strategy

Labour

GMB

GMB — Labour Union Donor

Full name: GMB (Britain's General Union) **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £1.5-2.5 million
Type: Trade union **Why they donate:** Represents public sector and private sector workers across a wide range of industries. Seeks to influence Labour policy on workers' rights, public services, and nationalisation. **Controversies:** Allegations of union influence over Labour internal democracy and candidate selection. The GMB has been more aligned with Labour's centre than Unite, but still draws scrutiny over the scale of union political funding.

Notes

- Major union in local government, health, energy, and distribution sectors
- One of Labour's "affiliated unions" — negotiates the Labour relationship
- Was among the unions most critical of the Corbyn leadership

Labour

UNISON

UNISON — Labour Union Donor

Full name: UNISON (Public Service Union) **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £1-2 million

Type: Trade union **Why they donate:** Britain's largest public sector union. Seeks to protect public services, defend pay and conditions, and influence Labour's public spending priorities.

Controversies: Less controversial internally than Unite, but still raises questions about union funding of a political party. Some members have objected to UNISON's affiliation fees going to Labour rather than being spent on industrial organising.

Notes

- Around 1.2 million members — Britain's biggest union
- Represents local government, NHS, education, police, and utility workers
- Has been a more moderate voice within Labour's union wing
- Strong supporter of public service restoration under Labour

Conservative

Major individual donors funding the Conservative Party.

Conservative

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

Conservative

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

Conservative

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

Conservative

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

Conservative

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

Conservative

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

Conservative

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

Reform UK

Major donors funding Reform UK.

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)

Liberal Democrats

Major donors funding the Liberal Democrats.

Mick Davis

Mick Davis — Liberal Democrats' Biggest Donor

Full name: Mick Davis (Sir Michael Davis) **Approx total donated (2024-2026):** £1-2 million
Source of wealth: Mining industry — former CEO of Xstrata (global mining giant). Estimated wealth £100m+. **Why they donate:** Supports Liberal Democrats' internationalist, pro-business, and pro-European stance. Chairs the Liberal Democrats' fundraising board. Was a major donor to the remain campaign and has backed pro-European political projects since Brexit. **Controversies:** Environmental concerns over his mining background — Xstrata was a major coal and mining multinational. Donations criticised as "dirty money" by environmental groups given his involvement in coal mining and extractive industries. Some within the Lib Dems have been uncomfortable with the association.

Notes

- The Lib Dems' only 7-figure individual donor
- His mining background creates a tension with the Lib Dems' environmental positioning
- Has also funded the European Movement and other pro-EU campaigning groups

Green Party — Donor Model

Green Party — Donor Profile

Key feature: The Green Party of England and Wales does not accept large corporate donations or donations from companies with government contracts. Their funding model is based primarily on:

- Individual membership subscriptions
- Small donations from members and supporters
- Crowdfunding campaigns for elections
- Bequests in wills
- Local party fundraising

Notable individual donors: There are no individual "megadonors" to the Green Party comparable to other parties. The party's constitution and ethical policy explicitly limit large donations. The party has a policy of not accepting donations from:

- Companies with government contracts
- Companies involved in fossil fuels, arms, or gambling
- Anonymous donations over £500

Funding scale (2024-2026): The Green Party's total income is estimated at £2-5 million annually — vastly smaller than Labour or Conservative fundraising. Most comes from membership fees and small donations.

Transparency notes:

- The Greens are consistently rated the most transparent UK party on funding by transparency campaigners
- All donations over £500 are publicly declared
- The party has never been investigated by the Electoral Commission over funding irregularities

Summary

The Greens are fundamentally different from other parties in their donor model. There are no wealthy individual donors to track — the party's funders are its members.

Cross-Party & Dark Money — Overview

Cross-Party / Dark Money — UK Political Donors

This file covers money in UK politics that crosses party lines or is deliberately opaque.

Key Categories

Unincorporated Associations

Unincorporated associations are the main vehicle for "dark money" in UK politics — groups that raise and spend money on political causes without the transparency requirements of registered political parties. They are legal but have minimal reporting requirements.

Notable examples:

- **The Woodland Trust / Bearwood** — Conservative-linked but technically separate
- The **ERG's funding network** (European Research Group)
- Various **Brexit campaign groups** that continued operating after 2020

Individual Donors Who Give Across Parties

Some wealthy individuals donate to multiple parties or causes:

- **Sir Paul Marshall** — Hedge fund billionaire (Marshall Wace). Has donated to both Conservatives and pro-Brexit causes. Also funds GB News and UnHerd. Net worth estimated £1.5bn+
- **Lord David Sainsbury** — Labour donor (profiled separately) who also funds cross-party science and innovation causes

Overseas & Notable Complex Donors

- **Mohamed Mansour** (Egyptian billionaire, Conservative — profiled separately)
- **Alexander Temerko** (ex-Yukos, Conservative — profiled separately)
- Various **Russian-linked** donors and funds that have been subject to increased scrutiny post-2022

Lobbying & Influence Networks

- **The 95 Group** — Labour-aligned business group
- **Labour Together** — Centre-left think tank funded by John Mills and other Labour donors
- **Conservative Way Forward** — Thatcherite pressure group
- **Right To Buy / housing lobby** — Cross-party influence through think tanks

Notes

- The UK has relatively weak donation transparency compared to other Western democracies
- Electoral Commission reforms proposed in 2024 have been repeatedly delayed
- The 2024-2025 period saw increased scrutiny of foreign-linked donations
- "Dark money" is most active in marginal seat campaigning where national rules are weaker

Sources

- Electoral Commission register of donations
- Transparency International UK — political integrity reports
- OpenDemocracy — dark money investigations
- Who Funds You? — party funding transparency project