

Alexander Temerko — Conservative Donor (Ex-Yukos)

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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

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