

John Caudwell — Conservative Donor (Phones4u)

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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

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