

From little acorns ...

Though the Conservative party continues to draw the bulk of its donations from a broad base of supporters, in the past decade a dramatic shift has occurred. Super-rich hedge fund managers have become the biggest single interest group to bankroll the UK's current main party

Sources: Electoral Commission; FT research



£14.3m

Total hedge fund donations to the Conservative party and its affiliates
From individuals and associated companies

Top 10 hedge fund industry donors to the Tories and affiliated bodies

Three individuals dominate the league table of Conservative donors between 2001 and 2011



Michael Farmer

£3.47m

Total donations

One of the world's most successful commodity traders. His hedge fund, Red Kite, has made investors hundreds of millions through metal trading since 2005 – and earned him the nickname Mr Copper in the City

Selected recipients:

£205,296
Conservative Christian Fellowship

£2,000
Philippa Stroud
Special adviser to work and pensions secretary. Stood as parliamentary candidate in 2010

A strong advocate of family values and a committed Christian



Lord Fink

£2.62m

Total donations

Known as the 'godfather' of the UK hedge fund industry, he is former chief executive of FTSE 100 listed Man Group and Tory co-treasurer

Selected recipients:

£215,000
Stephen O'Brien
MP for Eddisbury, Cheshire. An old friend of Lord Fink, who studied with him at Cambridge

Has strong connections to backbenchers on the right of the party and has been central in expanding Conservative fundraising efforts into the hedge fund world

£50,000
Liam Fox
Former defence secretary

£20,000
Boris Johnson
Mayor of London



Michael Hintze

£1.62m

Total donations

Australian-born founder of CQS, one of London's biggest hedge funds. As well as donating hundreds of thousands to party HQ, he has supported MPs who share his outlook

Selected recipients:

£38,755
George Osborne
Chancellor of the exchequer

£25,763
William Hague
Foreign secretary

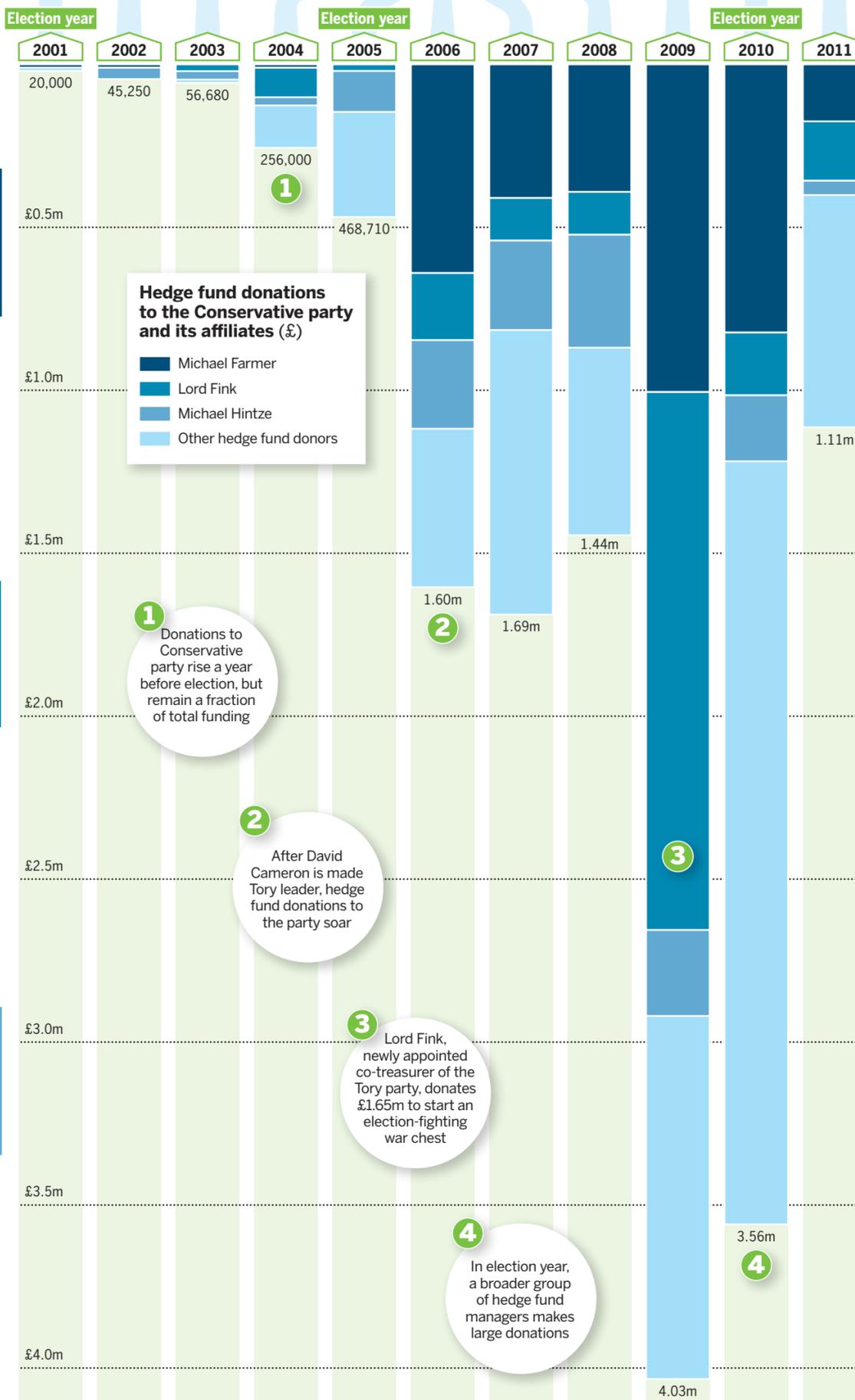
As a former army captain, he has an interest in geopolitics and defence. He is a practising Roman Catholic and a leading donor to the arts

£25,000
David Willetts
Universities minister

£20,439
Liam Fox

And the rest ...

Paul Ruddock	Lansdowne Partners	£571,598
Jonathan Wood	SRM	£535,000
James Lyle	Millgate Capital	£510,000
Hugh Sloane	Sloane Robinson	£472,000
Christopher Rokos	Brevan Howard	£400,850
Andrew Law	Caxton Associates	£388,800
George Robinson	Sloane Robinson	£339,000



Hedge fund donations to the Conservative party and its affiliates (£)

- Michael Farmer
- Lord Fink
- Michael Hintze
- Other hedge fund donors

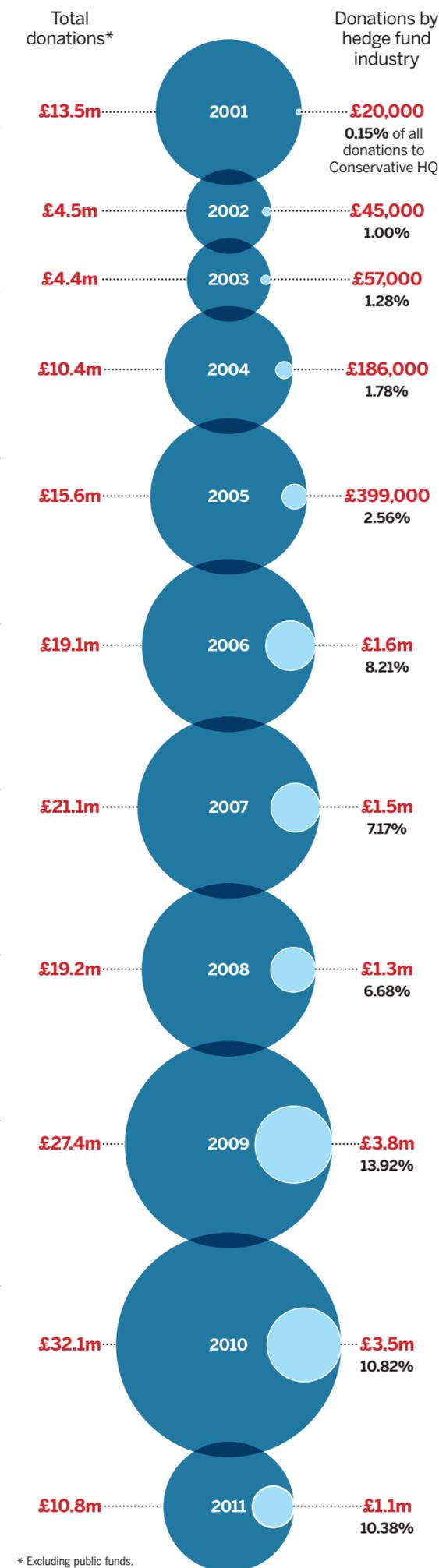
1 Donations to Conservative party rise a year before election, but remain a fraction of total funding

2 After David Cameron is made Tory leader, hedge fund donations to the party soar

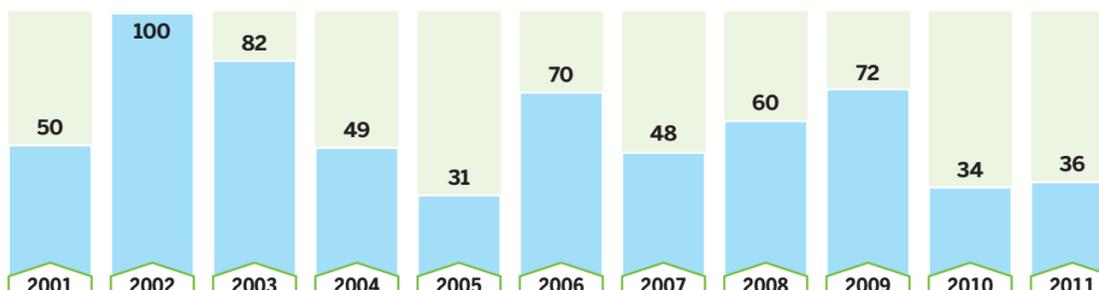
3 Lord Fink, newly appointed co-treasurer of the Tory party, donates £1.65m to start an election-fighting war chest

4 In election year, a broader group of hedge fund managers makes large donations

Donations to Conservative head office



Farmer, Fink and Hintze as % of total hedge fund donations to Conservatives and affiliates



* Excluding public funds, impermissible donors and unidentified donors

Figures are rounded