

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

£50,000

Liam Fox

Former defence secretary

£20,000

Boris Johnson

Mayor of London

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



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

£25,000

David Willetts

Universities minister

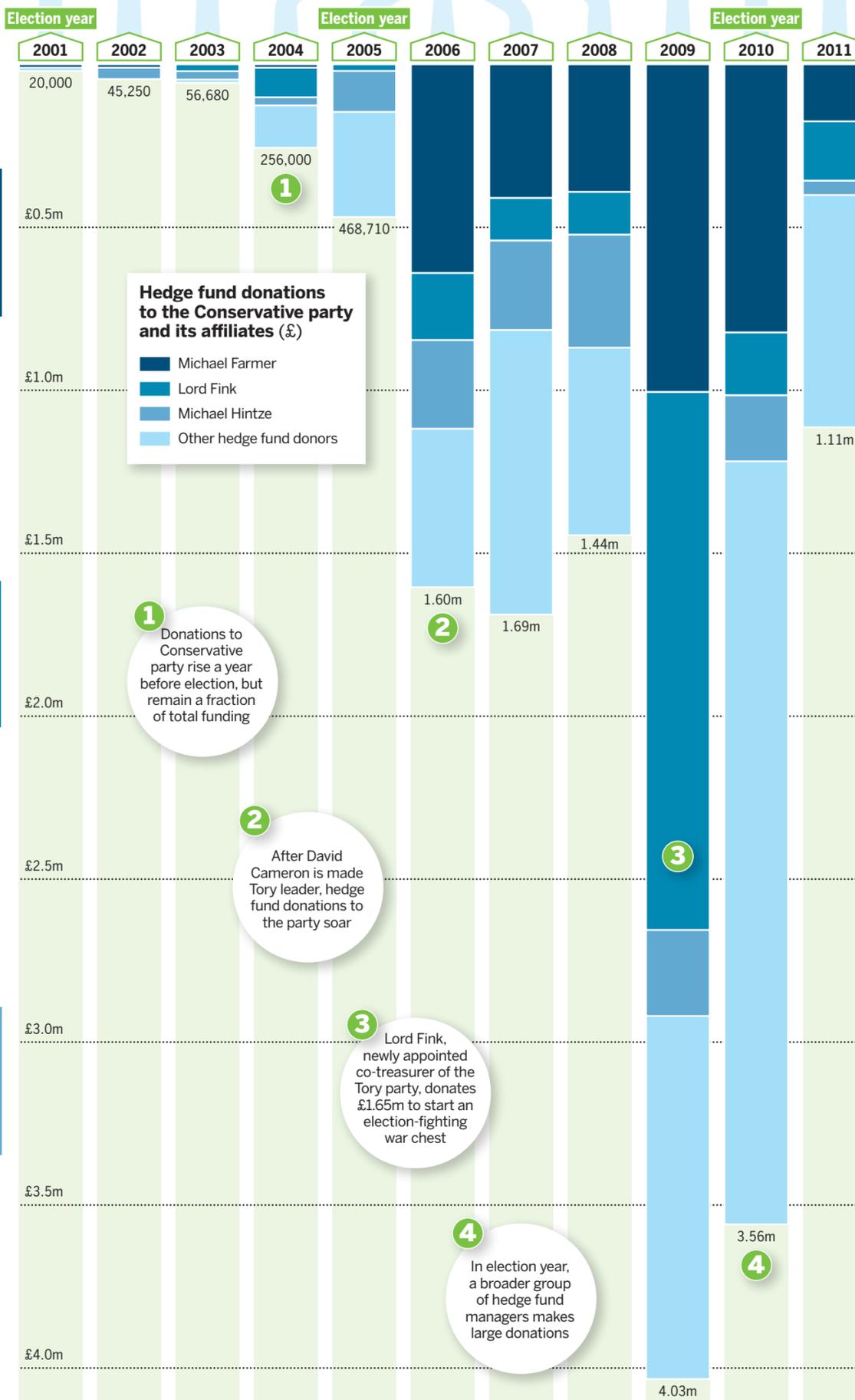
As a former army captain, he has an interest in geopolitics and defence. He is a practising Roman Catholic and a leading donor to the arts

£20,439

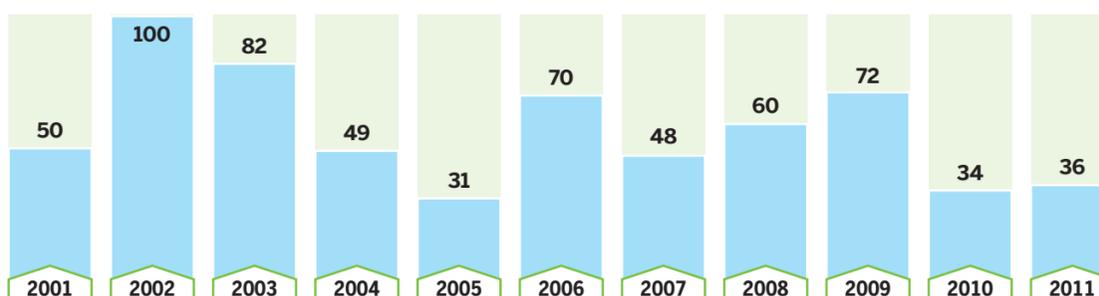
Liam Fox

And the rest ...

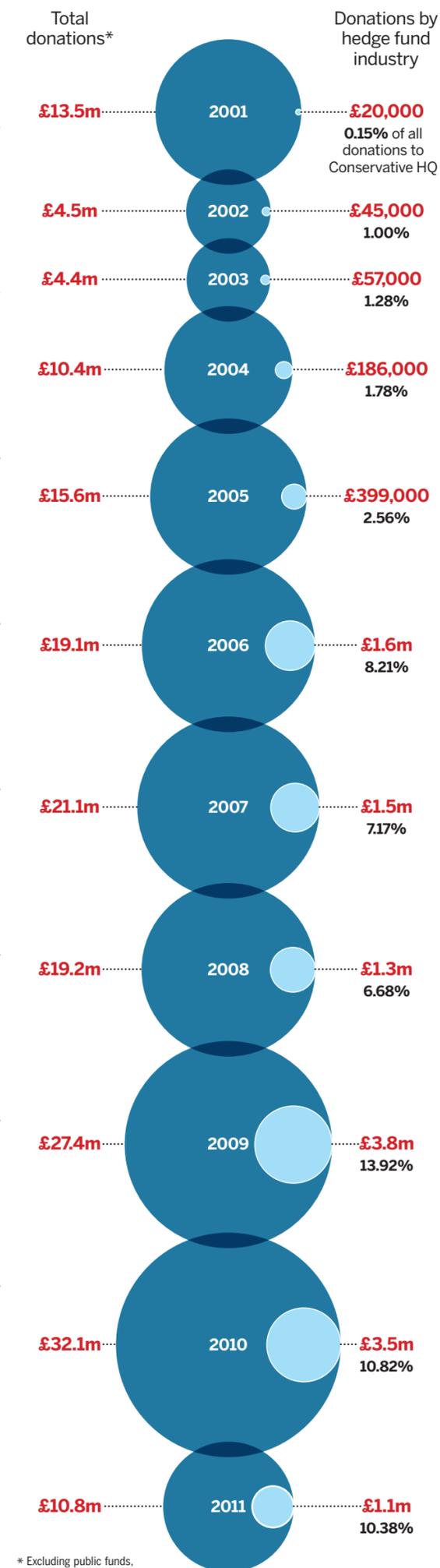
Paul Ruddock	Lansdowne Partners	£571,598
Jonathan Wood	SRM	£535,000
James Lyle	Millgate Capital	£510,000
Hugh Sloane	Sloane Robinson	£472,000
Christopher Rokos	Brevan Howard	£400,850
Andrew Law	Caxton Associates	£388,800
George Robinson	Sloane Robinson	£339,000



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



Donations to Conservative head office



Figures are rounded