Donations to Political Parties Analysis
1st Quarter, 2012

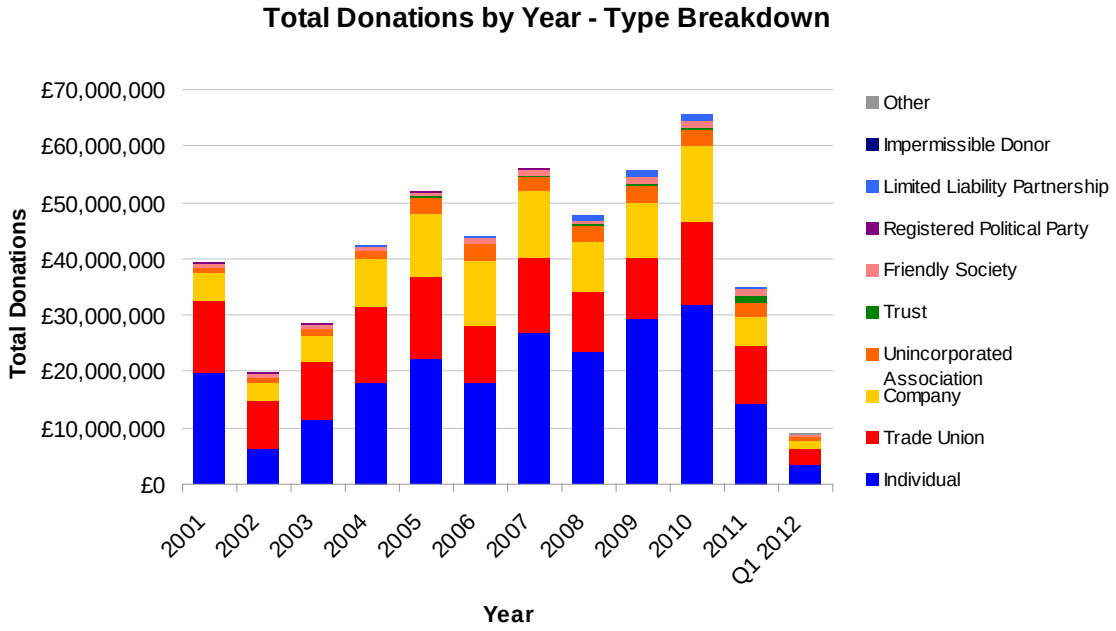
Donation Trends

We see a repeating trend of a dip in funding after each election year (2001, 2005, 2010), followed by increasing levels of donations, and this effect was echoed in 2007 due to speculation that an election would be called. The total for Q1 2012 represents just over a quarter of donations from the whole of 2011, but it is too early to say how 2012 will fit in with the overall trend.

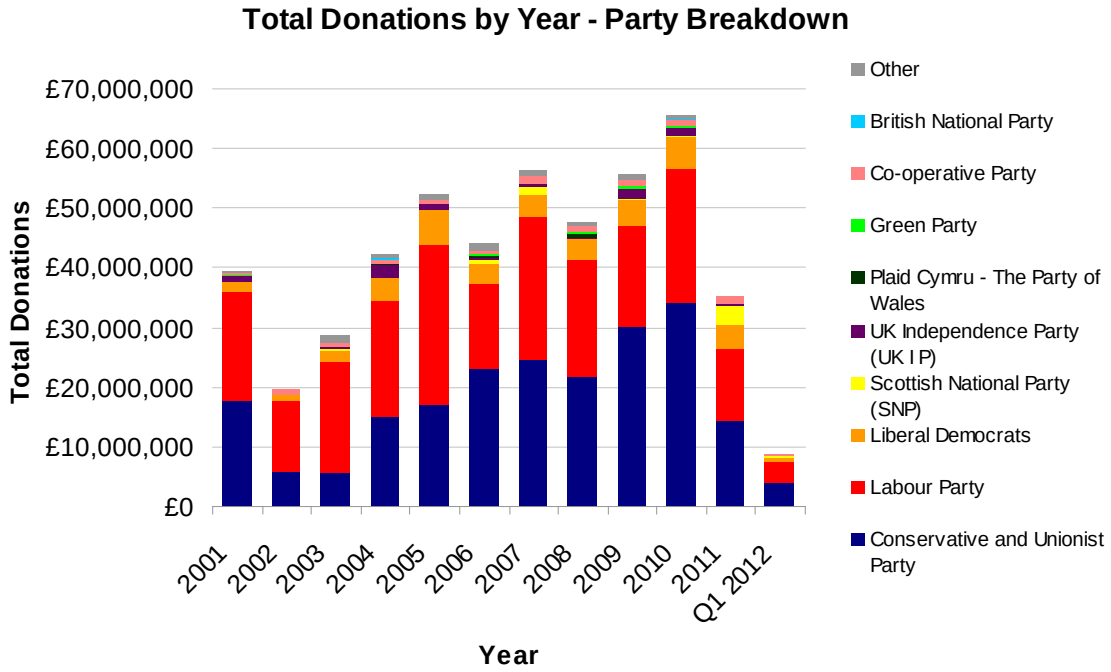
We also see that, since 2001, Labour have been reliant on trade unions for 63% of their funding, the Conservatives have depended on individuals for 62% of theirs and the Lib Dems have received 40% of their funding from company donations, more than either of the other major parties. Trade union funding is also less volatile from year to year, compared to individual and company donations.

Specifically in the first quarter of 2012, we saw:

- An increase in donations to the Conservative Party to £4,086,097.19 from £3,220,562 and £2,744,618 the previous two quarters
- Labour Party donations reach £3,452,441.05, a similar level to donations in Q3 and Q2 2011, after receiving only £2,315,038 in the last quarter of 2011
- A dip in Liberal Democrats donations to £606,724.32, lower than any of the totals for any of the previous 3 quarters, which were around the £1m mark
- A slight increase in the share of donations from companies compared to 2011



We have also broken down the annual donation totals by parties, and these trends are examined more closely in the party sections.



Top Ten Donors to Political Parties

Since 2001

1. Unite the Union (Labour, £41,426,890.79, 277 donations)
2. UNISON (Labour, £19,665,505.39, 142 donations)
3. GMB (Labour, £15,713,686.31, 122 donations)
4. David Sainsbury (Labour, £15,421,637.55, 59 donations)
5. Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (ASDAW) (Labour, £12,295,695.09, 65 donations)
6. Communication Workers Union (CWU) (Labour, £7,631,697.50, 81 donations)
7. Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd (Co-operative Party, £5,402,319.06, 49 donations)
8. Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd (Lib Dems, £5,391,345, 42 donations)
9. Lakshmi Mittal (Labour, £5,125,000, 4 donations)
10. Paul Getty (Conservatives, £5,000,000, 1 donation)

Quarter 1, 2012

1. Unite the Union (Trade Union, Labour, £910,418.88, over 2 donations)
2. UNISON (Trade Union, Labour, £528,611.97, over 3 donations)
3. Co-operative Group (CWS) Ltd (Friendly Society, Co-operative Party, £402,497)
4. GMB (Trade Union, Labour, £394,388, over 2 donations)
5. ASDAW (Trade Union, Labour, £339,802.53)
6. Peter A Cruddas (Individual, Conservative, £204,850)
7. Michael S Farmer (Individual, Conservative, £183,950)
8. Andrew Rosenfeld (Individual, Labour, £200,000)
9. CWU (Trade Union, Labour, £154,131.66, over 2 donations)
10. Rajinder Loomba (Individual, Lib Dem, £150,000)
10. National Conservative Draws Society (Unincorporated Association, Conservative, £150,000)

Conservative Donors Q1, 2012 – Total Donations £4,086,097.19

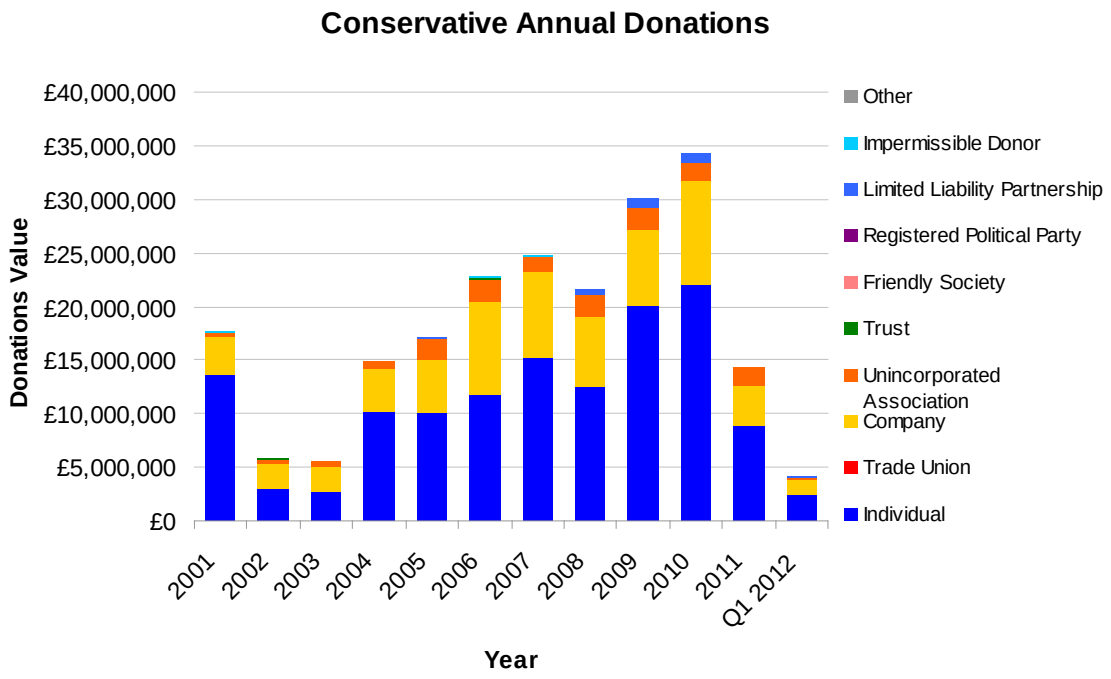
1. Peter A Cruddas (Individual, £204,850)
2. Michael S Farmer (Individual, £183,950)
3. National Conservative Draws Society (Unincorporated Association, £150,000)
4. Ann R Said (Individual, £140,000, over 2 donations)
5. Lycamobile UK Ltd (Company, £131,612, over 2 donations)

- **Peter Cruddas** is the founder and owner of internet securities dealer CMC Markets and was the Co-Treasurer of the Conservative Party until March 2012 and the "Cash for Access" scandal. He has donated a total of £987,801.76 over 7 donations since his first donation in 2010.

Long Term Donor Alert: Stanley Fink (Donated £34,450 this quarter)
Mr Fink is a hedge fund manager and a member of the House of Lords since 2011. He reprised his role as Conservative Treasurer after Cruddas resigned in March 2012. This donation brought his total donated to the Conservatives and its MPs to £2,686,842.26, spread over 30 donations, the first occurring in 2004.

Conservative Donation Trends

- Over the last 11 years, the Conservatives have been dependent on donations from individuals for the majority of their funding, with companies and unincorporated associations also playing a significant role
- Prior to 2011, there was an increasing overall trend for total donations after the 2001 election year until the election year of 2010, which saw the Conservatives form a government with the Liberal Democrats
- Q1 2012 saw a slight increase in the Conservative's share of donations from companies, from 26% in 2011 to 34%



Labour Donors Q1, 2012 – Total Donations £3,452,441.05

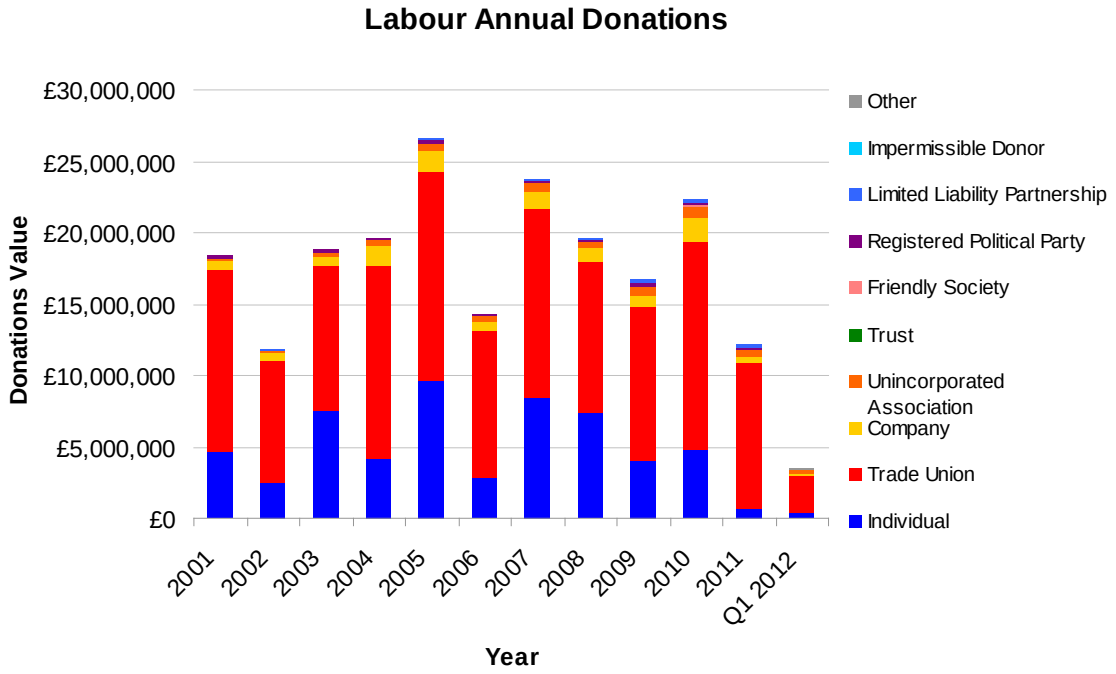
1. Unite the Union (Trade Union, £910,418.88, over 2 donations)
2. UNISON (Trade Union, £528,611.97, over 3 donations)
3. GMB (Trade Union, £394,388, over 2 donations)
4. Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (Trade Union, £339,802.53)
5. Andrew Rosenfeld (Individual, £200,000)

- **Unite the Union** is Britain's largest trade union with 1.5 million members and have donated more to a political party since 2001 than anyone else, having given a total of £41,426,890.79 over 277 donations
- **Andrew Rosenfeld** is a property investor with an estimated wealth of over £100m. He was appointed as a senior advisor to the Labour Party in October 2011 and has given the party £321,440

Long Term Donor Alert: William Haughey (Donated £89,800 this quarter)
Mr Haughey is a Scottish businessman, with an estimated worth of £50m. He is the owner and chairman of City Refrigeration Holdings Ltd, a facilities management company. This donation brought his total donated to Labour to £1,250,300 spread over 13 donations, the first occurring in 2001.

Labour Donation Trends

- Labour have been reliant on Trade Union funding each year, but in 2011 the Unions' share of Labour donations rose to 84%, the highest trade union share yet, as their donations have remained largely consistent but individual donations have dipped to less than a seventh of 2010 levels
- This reliance eased in Q1 2012 to 74%, helped by a greater share of donations from individuals, though nearly half of those were from Andrew Rosenfeld's £200,000 donation



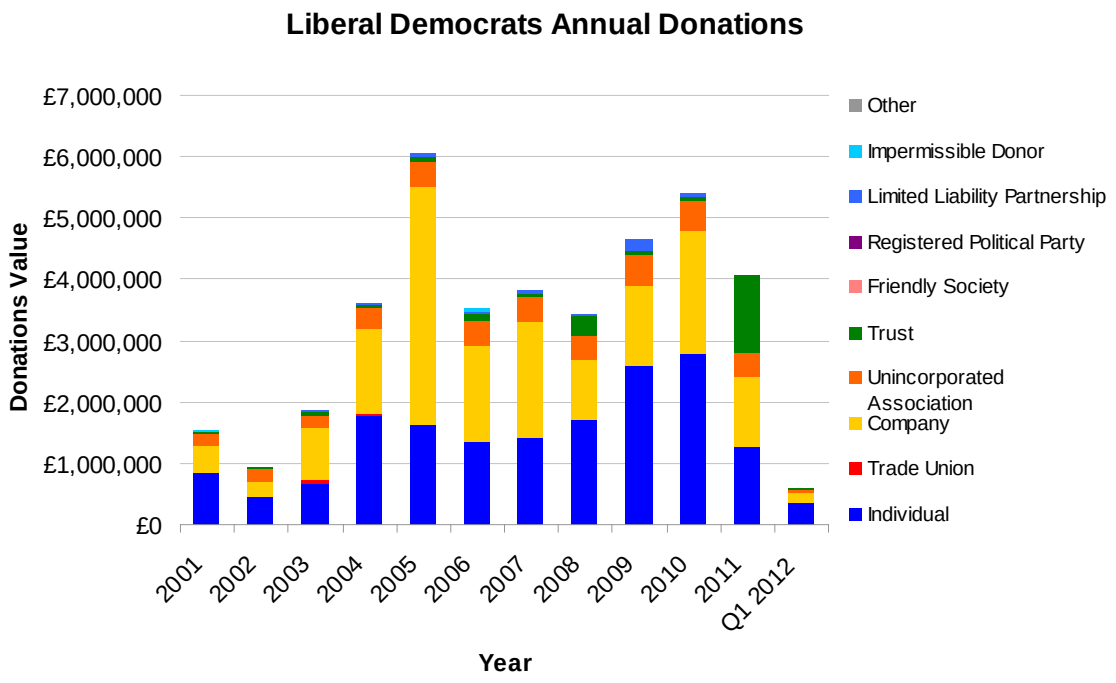
Lib Dem Donors Q1, 2012 – Total Donations £606,724.32

1. Rajinder Loomba (Individual, £150,000)
2. Ministry of Sound Ltd (Company, £93,799.76 over 4 donations)
3. David Alliance (Individual, £25,000)
3. Anthony Wilkinson (Individual, £25,000)
3. Brian Roper (Individual, £25,000)
3. Margaret Roper (Individual, £25,000)

- **Rajinder Loomba** is the founder and executive chairman of the Rinku Group, a clothing company. He was made a member of the House of Lords for the Lib Dems in January 2011, and the £150,000 he donated this quarter was his first donation over £10,000
- **Ministry of Sound Ltd** is an entertainment business specialising on recorded music, night clubs and consumer electronics. This quarter's donations brought their total to £384,069.66, spread over 18 donations

Liberal Democrats Donation Trends

- The Lib Dems have relied more on company donations than either of the other main parties for all but 2 of the last 11 years
- With the exception of 2005, which included £2.4m of donations from convicted fraudster Michael Brown, donations largely tended to increase until 2010, when the party formed part of the government
- Donations from trusts funds only totalled £22,000 in Q1 2012, in contrast to over £1m from them over the whole of 2011

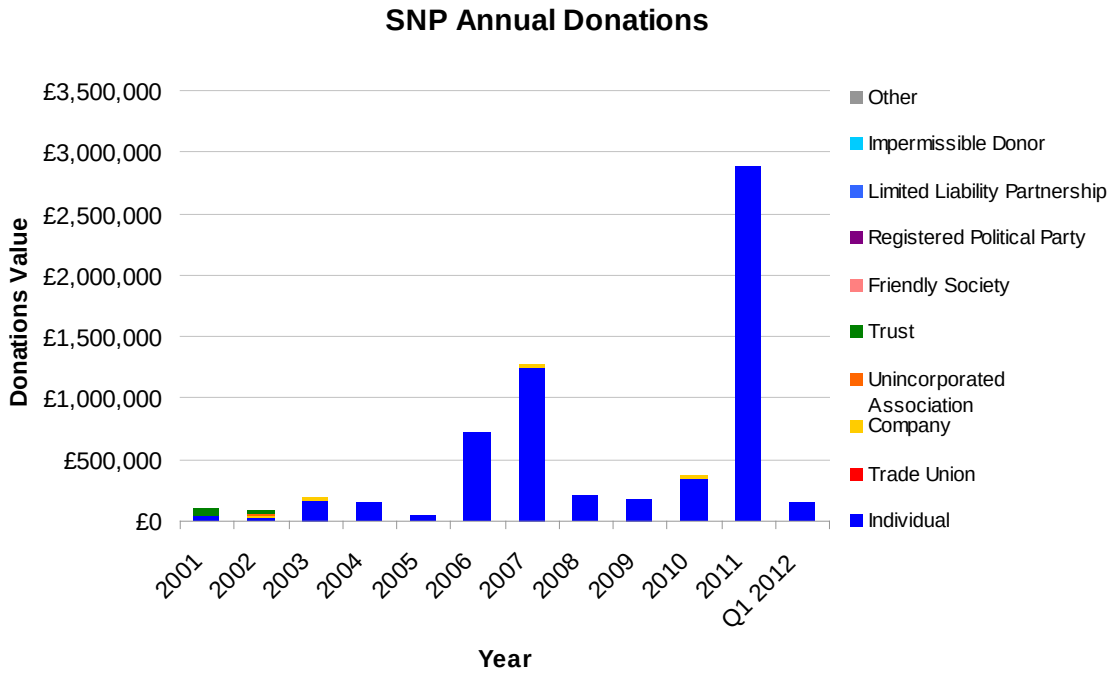


SNP Donors Q1, 2012 – Total Donations £145,845.28

1. Patricia Lorimer (Individual, £118,041.49)
2. John Ross (Individual, £10,000)

Scottish National Party Donation Trends

- Donation levels to the SNP prove to be somewhat volatile, with the party heavily dependent on inconsistent donations from individuals, though their peak levels of donations do correspond with the Scottish Parliament elections in 2003, 2007 and 2011
- They received £145,845.28 in this quarter, most of which was from Patricia Lorimer's single donation
- Donations of £1,000,000 from lottery winners Colin and Christine Weir, and over £900,000 left to them in the will of the late Scottish poet Edwin Morgan in 2011 mean the SNP's 2012 figures are unlikely to match the previous year and be more similar to 2008, 2009 and 2010



Footnotes:

1. *Source: Electoral Commission.*
2. *Analysis of individual donors refers to donations of £10,000 and over only and includes donations to regulated donees such as party MPs and associated organisations.*
3. *Analysis of total donations to parties refers to donations of all value, though not to regulated donees. This includes total party donations per quarter.*
4. *Trade Union totals include donations from predecessor organisations.*
5. *Annual donation totals are adjusted according to CPI inflation.*