

One day politicians will learn how to get their House i...

Published: January 14, 2026, 9:27 am

As the [Guardian noted yesterday](#) afternoon:

A Conservative MP and former minister is listed in shareholder registers as personally owning stakes in companies worth nearly £500,000, raising questions about the effectiveness of the controversial parliamentary “blind trust” system used to buy the shares.

Jonathan Djanogly, the MP for Huntingdon, holds shares in Lloyds Bank worth more than £180,000, has an investment worth £120,000 in the housebuilding company Persimmon and a stake worth almost £80,000 in Sainsbury’s. He has smaller stakes in six other companies including the energy supplier Centrica.

The investments have come to light as part of a [Guardian investigation](#) into what are in effect secret shareholdings of MPs.

I contributed to this story, as I have to previous stories on the issue of blind trusts. The Guardian noted this:

There are no specific parliamentary or ministerial rules governing how a blind trust is set up and how one should be managed. The lack of clear guidelines means it is left to individual interpretation. Transparency campaigners have pointed out that a key flaw [with blind trusts](#) is that the beneficiaries have a degree of awareness about the assets that are in the trusts. At the very least they will be aware of what has gone into the trust at its creation.

When an MP or minister holds shares in a blind trust, they do not need to publicly disclose their existence, even if they are over the £70,000 threshold after which an MP is normally obliged to register them. Campaigners say this creates a transparency black hole.

They added:

Richard Murphy, a professor of accounting practice at Sheffield University management

school, told the Guardian: *“The difficulties with the blind trust is it isn’t publicly registered. We don’t know who created it, who the trustee is, how the accountability works.*

“To exist as a blind trust we have to know it is properly functioning with appropriate Chinese walls between the beneficiary/settlor and the manager ... But without that full disclosure of who is doing what, for who, how and when, we can’t be sure the blind trust is effective. Knowing these things is critical if blind trusts are to continue to be a part of our political system.”

One day politicians will learn how to get their House in order, but not yet it seems.