

Labour could ban big donations to political parties

Published: January 13, 2026, 6:51 am

I have published another in my series of reforms that Labour could deliver with remarkably little expenditure of cash on the government's part this morning. In it, I argue that politics in the UK is blighted by the influence of big political donors, all of whom are seeking to influence how our politicians behave to advantage themselves. That influence is malign. We need clean politics and Labour could deliver that by ending large donations, for good.

<https://youtu.be/icGx7GsDaEU?si=0oi4d2zlubPngcEm>

The audio version of this video is here:

https://www.podbean.com/player-v2/?i=bf8pg-166e89b-pb&from=pb6admin&share=1&download=1&rtl=0&fonts=Arial&skin=c73a3a&font-color=&logo_link=episode_page&bn-skin=3267a3

The transcript is:

If Labour wants to clean up politics, and I hope that it does, it could make another of the changes to the rules that apply in this country that it could alter as a new government at almost no cost to itself and the administration of government in the UK.

It could very simply say, we're going to end the ability of anyone, whether an individual or a company, to make a gift to a political party of more than £10,000 a year.

I believe that would be transformational with regard to our democracy.

We don't want a democracy that is manipulated for the benefit of donors in this

country. We want clean politics. But when money, and I mean large amounts of money, comes into play, then that isn't possible.

This law has already been put into place, in effect, with regard to trade union donations.

Remember that no trade union can now make a donation to the Labour Party unless an individual member has agreed to make the payment, and none of them make a payment of more than £10,000 a year as a result.

But it doesn't apply to those people who've got their wealth from other sources than work, and who wish to make very large donations to a political party.

I think there should be a level playing field. If the amount that an individual can donate through their trade union is capped, and it effectively is by the amount that can be collected through their wages by that trade union to donate to Labour, then everybody else should be in roughly the same situation.

Now, as it is, I'm being very generous by putting the cap at £10,000 a year. It still means somebody could donate £50,000 over the life of a parliament. And to me, that's an unimaginable sum that I might want to give to any political party.

But for some people, it clearly isn't. But I want to stop the undue influence that donations of more than that sum might create. Because our politics needs to be clean. And it can't be unless we change our laws.

Come on Labour, let's do it.