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Farage's right-hand man publishing book on how to launder money

Reform UK aide George Cottrell spent eight months in prison for wire fraud in 2016



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Aristocrat nicknamed 'Posh George' has raised millions of pounds for Nigel Farage's various political parties Credit: Steve Finn/Alamy

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A key lieutenant of Nigel Farage is publishing a book outlining common methods for laundering money.


George Cottrell, an aristocratic banker and convicted criminal, is the co-author of a new book titled *How to Launder Money*, which is set to be published later

this month.

The book is described as breaking down in “delicious detail” the mechanics of money laundering, “not to enable wrongdoing but to illuminate it”.

Mr Cottrell, 32, is a close confidant of Mr Farage and a key figure in Reform UK. He has previously helped to raise millions of pounds in funding for Mr Farage's parties, including Ukip and the Brexit Party.

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The aide has repeatedly been photographed at the Reform leader's side, including after he was doused with a milkshake during a visit to Clacton-on-Sea.

Mr Cottrell, nicknamed “Posh George”, was born to an aristocratic family and brought up in Mustique. His mother is a former model and one-time girlfriend of the King, while his father attended Scottish boarding school Gordonstoun with Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor.

Popular money laundering methods outlined by Mr Cottrell include a description of how a local art dealer can serve as a “gateway” for party drugs and escorts.

Other techniques include harnessing crowdfunding sites to clean cash or operating sham online merchants for semi-precious stones such as lapis lazuli and tourmaline.

In one excerpt, the authors state: “Your success as a money launderer is that everyone knows your ‘fake’ business failed.

“Generally, no one looks into a failed business, and since all of the money coming in was to be laundered, you will not even have grumpy investors. Your failure is your success.”

The book also provides a detailed account of how to forge gold by combining tungsten with aluminium, and points to cryptocurrency as an effective vehicle for money laundering.

However, the authors warn that using a scam cryptocurrency to launder money is “from the start unwise”.

The book, co-written by Lawrence Burke Files, an American financial investigator, argues that anti-money laundering laws are not working and that the increased cost of compliance and regulation has been passed on to consumers.

It calls for new anti-money laundering principles, including simpler regulation, the designation of accountable individuals and graduated sanctions that would limit first offenders to written warnings or fines.

In 2016, Mr Cottrell was arrested at the Republican National Convention on charges including money laundering. He spent eight months in jail after admitting to one charge of wire fraud, with a further 20 counts dropped as part of a plea deal.

Mr Cottrell, who founded political consultancy Geostrategy last year, reportedly lives in a luxurious coastal resort in Montenegro.

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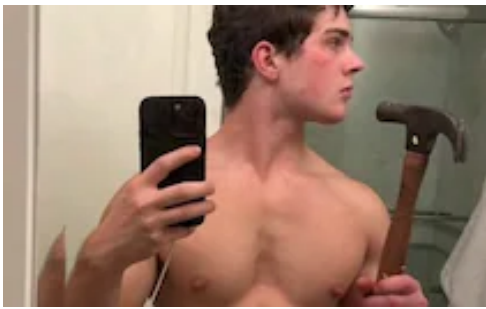
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