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Joe Saxton voted UK's “most influential person in fundraising” for third year running

Joe Saxton – chair of the Institute of Fundraising and Driver of Ideas at not for profit sector think tank and research consultancy *nfpSynergy* – has been voted the most influential person in the UK's fundraising sector: for the third year running. *Professional Fundraising* magazine's fifth annual reader survey saw third sector minister Ed Miliband trailing, at sixth position; Chancellor of the Exchequer and apparent PM-in-waiting, Gordon Brown at number 8; chief executive of the Fundraising Standards Board, Jon Scourse at 11; Charity Commission chair, Dame Suzi Leather at 27; and outgoing PM, Tony Blair at 30.

***Professional Fundraising's* citation reads:**

"Saxton's tenure at the top was in little doubt. Moving into his third year as chair of the Institute of Fundraising, Saxton remains one of the most respected voices in the sector. Not afraid to stick his head above the parapet, Saxton has sounded a note of caution about the imminent launch of the National Research Centre on Charitable Giving & Philanthropy; and challenged the 'ostrich-like behaviour' of the rest of the charity sector in comparison to fundraising and the progress it is making on transparency. At *nfpSynergy*, he has directed research into Gift Aid, youth engagement and online fundraising and is currently working on the Global Fundraising Benchmark, moving the research agency's fundraising benchmark report up a notch with a new international reach."

Alan Gosschalk, Director of Fundraising at Shelter and Chair of the ImpACT Coalition - himself number two in the list - said:

"Joe has again made a fantastic contribution to the sector and was deservedly most influential person in fundraising yet again this year. He always rightly challenges us to perform better and actively contributes by chairing the Institute of Fundraising. His research company, *nfpSynergy*, is always finding out new information that helps us to develop our understanding and he freely shares this information around the sector. Joe is always willing to help charities to develop and in his spare time he even manages to chair another charity, People and Planet!"

***Professional Fundraising* magazine's Top 50 most influential people in UK fundraising (last year's ranking shown in brackets) were:**

1. *Joe Saxton*, driver of ideas, *nfpSynergy*; chair, Institute of Fundraising (1)
2. *Alan Gosschalk*, director of fundraising, Shelter; chair, ImpACT Coalition (2)
3. *Alan Clayton*, managing director, Cascaid (4)
4. *Giles Pegram*, director of fundraising, NSPCC (21)
5. *Lindsay Boswell*, chief executive, Institute of Fundraising (5)
6. *Ed Miliband*, minister for the Third Sector (20)
7. *Tim Hunter*, deputy director of fundraising, NSPCC (19)
8. *Gordon Brown*, Chancellor of the Exchequer (3)
9. *Mark Astarita*, director of fundraising, British Red Cross (15)
10. *Sarah Shillito*, head, the Vodafone Foundation UK (-)
11. *Jon Scourse*, chief executive, Fundraising Standards Board (9)
12. *Campbell Robb*, director general, Office of the Third Sector (34)
12. *Judy Beard*, director of fundraising, Macmillan Cancer Support (28)
14. *Mick Aldridge*, chief executive, Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (7)
15. *Bernard Ross*, director, The Management Centre (17)
15. *Anne-Marie Piper*, partner, Farrer and Co (13)
17. *Tania Cohen*, freelance fundraising consultant (16)
18. *John Thompson*, managing director, Changing Business (-)
19. *Tony Elischer*, managing director, THINK (10)
20. *Sarah Lyness*, exec co-director of fundraising and marketing, Cancer Research UK (14)

21. *Howard Lake*, founder, UK Fundraising (11)
22. *Stephen Pidgeon*, chair, Target direct (-)
23. *Nick Booth*, Full Stop campaign director, NSPCC (35)
23. *Megan Pacey*, director of policy and campaigns, Institute of Fundraising (12)
25. *Luke FitzHerbert*, senior researcher, Directory of Social Change (45)
26. *Ken Burnett*, author and speaker (8)
27. *Dame Suzi Leather*, chair, Charity Commission (34)
28. *Jonathan Parris*, director, Remember a Charity (-)
29. *Gill Raikes*, director of fundraising, National Trust (36)
30. *Adrian Sargeant*, Professor of Fundraising, Indiana University, US (6)
30. *Tony Blair*, Prime Minister (-)
32. *Stephen Dunmore*, chief executive, Big Lottery Fund (-)
33. *Stephen Lloyd*, senior partner & head of charity / social enterprise, Bates Wells & Braithwaite (-)
34. *Ruth Ruderham*, director of fundraising, Friends of the Earth (32)
35. *Richard Radcliffe*, legacy consultant, Smee & Ford (37)
35. *David Burrows*, creative director, TDA (-)
37. *Sharath Jeevan*, head of eBay for charity (-)
38. *James Briggs*, head of planning, Bluefrog (-)
39. *Nick Brooks*, head of not-for-profit, Kingston Smith; chair Institute of Fundraising Standards Committee (-)
40. *Andrew Hind*, chief executive, Charity Commission (-)
41. *Martin Brookes*, head of research, New Philanthropy Capital (-)
42. *Julia Unwin*, director, Joseph Rowntree Foundation (-)
43. *George Smith*, consultant, George Smith Consulting (-)
44. *Roger Lawson*, planning director, Cascaid (23)
45. *Gordon Michie*, director of development, Relationship Marketing (38)
46. *Michael Newsome*, director of fundraising, FARM-Africa (-)
47. *Paul Farthing*, legacy fundraising & corporate partnerships director, Cancer Research UK (-)
48. *Tanya Steele*, director of supporter relations and fundraising, Save the Children (-)
49. *Amanda Delew*, freelance consultant (43)
50. *Polly Gowers*, managing director, Everyclick (-)

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To ask Joe Saxton to comment on any charity or fundraising-related issue, to invite him to expound his own insights and opinions, or simply to interview or profile him, please contact:

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Note to editors - Joe Saxton:

Joe Saxton co-founded *nfpSynergy* in 2002 after fifteen years experience in the voluntary sector, including as a director of the RNID (Britain's largest charity for deaf and hard of hearing people) and as a trustee of the RSPCA.

nfpSynergy (www.nfpsynergy.net) is the UK's *only* think-tank and research consultancy dedicated to the charity sector and not for profit issues. It provides ideas, insights and information to help voluntary and community organisations thrive in an ever-changing world. Regularly harvesting the social and charity-related views of public and parliament, media and business - not to mention not for profit organisations themselves - *nfpSynergy* has a vast and ever-growing knowledge pool from which to extract and deliver insights.

Joe is Chair of the Trustees of the Institute of Fundraising (www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk) - the professional body for fundraising and the largest individual representative body in the voluntary sector, with 4000 individual members and 200 organisational members. He was recently named one of the hundred most influential people in UK social policy by *The Guardian* and has been voted the most influential person in UK fundraising by *Professional Fundraising* for the last three years (see above release). Joe was named one of the *Ten People of Tomorrow* by public affairs agency, AS Biss, in 2006.

A well-known and respected voice within the charity world and frequent face at sector conferences, Joe has contributed - via original research, opinion pieces and interviews - to a wide range of specialist and mainstream media, both print and broadcast, from *Third Sector* and *The Guardian* to *BBC Breakfast* and *BBC Radio 4*.