

UK Single Family Office Reacts to Geopolitical Uncertainty, Introduces Gold

By Juliet Martin | Published 02/04/26 | Timetable N/A

INVESTOR

[Wautier Family Office](#)

Fund Size (m) N/A

Country United Kingdom

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Primary Contact

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[More \(if applicable\)](#)

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SUMMARY OF INVESTMENTS

Breakdown

Actual allocation as of 01/03/2026: 66.67% Private Equity, 33.33% Equities Unspecified / Fixed Income Unspecified.

INVESTMENT CONSULTANT

No consultant engaged

Contact Not disclosed

[More \(if applicable\)](#)

MANAGER ROSTER

Undisclosed (Equities Unspecified, Fixed Income Unspecified, Private Equity); In-house (Private Equity);

PREFACE

London-based Wautier Family Office recently made its first investments into gold and has since found it to be one of its highest-performing asset classes, founder Jean-Baptiste Wautier told MandateWire. Given current geopolitical upheaval, and concerns around public equity and private credit dynamics, Wautier is considering hedging options and seeks to maintain a liquidity buffer, both to manage risk and access opportunity.

REPORT

Having served as CIO at alternative investment manager BC Partners for 10 years, Wautier launched his family office around 2023.

The family office builds on Wautier's investment background, which centres around allocating to mature businesses, mostly in Europe and the US, with a focus on the consumer and healthcare sectors.

The portfolio is structured via three principles, the first being impact. Wautier told MandateWire: "Impact can of course be money, but it can also be the time you invest, and your particular expertise, or your connections, or your relationships."

"Number two is we are long-term investors in everything we do, especially when we invest in private companies," he said.

"Number three is you need to be focused. On the direct front, we have five portfolio companies, all in consumer and all [based] in Europe, all founder-backed."

Direct private market investments account for around 22 per cent of Wautier's portfolio. Private market funds stand at around 44 per cent exposure, and around 33 per cent is allocated to public markets.

The family office's public investments are almost "the polar opposite" of its private portfolio, Wautier noted: "It's mostly US and it's mostly large companies... accepting the fact that it's not impact in that case."

This distribution is down to market conditions, according to Wautier, since "most of the [public] markets are in the US nowadays, so if you really want to have the right exposure to public equity, there's no other way than to invest in the US".

Despite the family office's long-term outlook, recent global events have influenced Wautier's investment strategy.

"One asset class I never thought I would [invest in] is gold," he said. "[Because] like any raw material it is impossible to forecast in terms of supply and demand."

However, the family office made its first gold investments around 18 months ago, "and it is probably one of our best investments to date", Wautier said.

"The reason we went into [it] is because dollars have become the only currency really out there, and there was an obvious debasement trade to be made there. We will continue to monitor this aspect of the portfolio."

Similarly, the ongoing conflict in the Middle East will influence Wautier's strategy.

"How do you hedge yourself against geopolitics? Right now that should be the obsession of any family office," he said.

The main priority is having "a good liquidity buffer", which enables the family office to hedge risk and also be in the position to take advantage of opportunities that emerge from volatility. "When we build liquidity buffers, it's always defensive and offensive," Wautier said.

This approach is especially important given current global financial market dynamics, he added: "Even before this crisis, public markets were quite high, [partly] because of the impact of AI on the economy.

"[Meanwhile], private credit is potentially a risk and has been a risk on my mind for years. I think there's been too much money going to private credit so that always creates a risk.

"Those two [factors] are also justifying that you would keep a good liquidity buffer."

When it comes to using external asset managers, for Wautier, "there has to be an element of either people I know and trust from my previous experiences or a particular connection".

"Of course, they have to have a good track record, but the personal connectivity is equally a must. The other must-have is I need to understand what they do and the strategy. I need to understand the source of performance," he said.

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