

## Leadsom's Résumé Controversy Overblown, Her Former Supervisor Says

'I would never, ever doubt her honesty,' Invesco executive says of PM candidate

BY JAMES MACKINTOSH UPDATED JULY 8, 2016 3:51 P.M. ET

LONDON—The former work supervisor of Andrea Leadsom, one of the two candidates to be the next U.K. prime minister, has dismissed a controversy about how she presented her career and described her as “totally honest.”

Ms. Leadsom has faced repeated questions about her résumé since the energy minister entered the race to lead the governing Conservative Party following Prime Minister David Cameron's resignation.

Bob Yerbury, who as chief investment officer at fund manager Invesco Perpetual was Ms. Leadsom's manager for 10 years, said she would make an “outstanding” prime minister, with “great conviction, great energy.”

“I would never, ever doubt her honesty,” he said. “Andrea doesn't play games.”

However, he said that she didn't run a fund or make investment decisions, contrary to the claims made by one member of Parliament, Bernard Jenkin, who supports her.

Ms. Leadsom has regularly referred to her 25 years of experience in the financial sector since she became an MP in 2010, claiming recently to have run “enormous teams, small teams, startup businesses.” She also says she helped the Bank of England calm fears over the collapse of Barings Bank when she was at Barclays in 1995.

Controversy erupted over her past when a former Invesco colleague went public this week to deny she managed money there, and questioned how senior she was.

A spokesman for Ms. Leadsom didn't respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Yerbury, her manager at Invesco, said Ms. Leadsom “handled a lot of stuff for me because I was very busy and Andrea assisted me with managing the team” of fund managers. He said he had never heard her talk about any role in the Barings collapse, something she highlighted in a speech to Parliament.

Ms. Leadsom herself doesn't seem to have claimed to run money at Invesco. In her only mention of the company in parliamentary transcripts, in February last year, she said she was responsible for drawing up a “quantitative bonus scheme” for the firm's fund managers.

Ms. Leadsom came in a distant second in the ballot among Conservative MPs for the leadership. The final say rests with grass roots members of the party, who have a choice between her and Home Secretary Theresa May, the favorite with bookmakers, in a postal vote due to end in September.

—Jenny Gross contributed to this article.

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