

Scandalous spending tracker breakdown

This total is an estimate using the public reports below. Updated 31/05/2024

Category of waste	Description of spending	Money spent	Source
Outrageous outgoings	Wine for Government wine cellar 2019-20	£73,000	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Painting the Prime Minister's planes	£1,700,000	The Guardian The Mirror
Outrageous outgoings	Art for Downing Street	£100,000	The Independent
Outrageous outgoings	Unnecessary Union Jacks 2018-21	£163,000	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Traffic cones for Brexit traffic that never materialised	£200,000	Kent Online
Outrageous outgoings	Chauffeuring Government documents 2019/20	£570,000	Huffington Post
Outrageous outgoings	Blue post-Brexit passports	£11,000,000	Home Office
Outrageous outgoings	Capita paid extortionate amount for the work of one individual	£120,250	Byline Times
Outrageous outgoings	Legal fees spent defending crony polling	£600,000	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Contracts to big consulting firms without tender	£56,000,000	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Jacob Rees Mogg pushes for a second review of whether MPs can remain in Parliament during refurbishment. It comes to the same conclusion that MPs will need to leave during the work	£5,000,000	Dr Alexandra Meakin NAO Report The Times
Outrageous outgoings	Conservative Ministers double advertising budget in preparation for an election	£465,000,000	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Festival of Brexit	£120,000,000	Politics Home
Outrageous outgoings	Liz Truss chartered a private jet to Australia	£500,000	Sky
Outrageous outgoings	Fake 'bell bonging' mechanism only used 10 times during Big Ben maintenance	£100,000	Independent
Outrageous outgoings	Excessive travel costs for Truss as Foreign Secretary ¹	£1,800,000	The Guardian
Outrageous Outgoings	Polling and focus groups for Rishi Sunak's image	£1,350,000	Independent
Outrageous outgoings	Government use of temporary agency staff in civil service	£3,000,000,000	The Independent

Outrageous outgoings	Government bin red passports	£8,600,000	Yahoo finance
Outrageous outgoings	Consultancy fees more than double in 2021-21	£911,000,000	iNews
Outrageous outgoings	Lectern for Truss	£3,000	Telegraph
Outrageous outgoings	Golden goodbye for Truss cabinet	£709,000	Sky News
Outrageous outgoings	Taxpayer money used to fund Johnson's partygate defence	£220,000	Telegraph
Outrageous outgoings	Truss flies to Bali only to fly back immediately to launch leadership bid	£369,000	The Mirror
Outrageous outgoings	Suella Braverman flies to the Channel in a Chinook	£2,625	Huffington Post
Outrageous outgoings	Raab hires private jet for short journey	£23,000	The Sun
Outrageous outgoings	Money spent to keep identity of MI5 domestic abuser secret	£376,775	The Independent
Outrageous outgoings	Staffing costs to review laws on chopping block in Retained EU law bill ²	£7,547,170	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Research firm paid to track approval of monarchy around the world after Queen's death	£20,000	The Daily Mail
Outrageous outgoings	Fine for lax customs checks	£2,300,000,000	The Times
Outrageous outgoings	New helicopter for the PM to make short trips	£50,000,000	Mirror
Outrageous outgoings	Sunak's Covid-spreading Eat Out to Help Out scheme which drove infections	£849,000,000	Metro
Outrageous outgoings	Fossil fuel companies given £1bn extra support from 2020-21	£1,000,000,000	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	High-earning business execs given taxpayer-funded MBA courses ³	£600,000,000	Independent
Outrageous outgoings	Cabinet reshuffle creates four new departments with essentially same brief as old ones	£60,000,000	HuffPost
Outrageous outgoings	Rishi Sunak takes a helicopter flight on for a trip that would have been an hour by train	£6,000	The guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Cost of holding 11 by-elections after Conservative MPs resign or are recalled due to scandal ⁴	£2,634,819	BBC
Outrageous outgoings	Fund to supply portrait of the King to public institutions across UK	£8,000,000	The i
Outrageous outgoings	Excessive dining and alcohol expenses by FCDO	£334,803	BBC
Outrageous outgoings	rooms at the five-star Hotel Danieli in Venice	£3,217	Independent BBC

Outrageous outgoings	Sunak's Treasury bought 13 fine art photos from Tate	£3,393	Independent BBC Mirror
Outrageous outgoings	MoJ buys 850 branded USB cables for staff at virtual conference	£4,019	BBC
Outrageous outgoings	Govt lawyers for Covid inquiry	£55,000,000	ITV
Outrageous outgoings	Ice-cream in Uruguay	£837	Telegraph
Outrageous outgoings	Luxury party villa in Naples	£6,836	Telegraph
Outrageous outgoings	Amusement park in Sydney	£6,091	Telegraph
Outrageous outgoings	South African spa	£11,534	Telegraph
Outrageous outgoings	2022 Ministerial Merry-go-round	£450,000	Yahoo News
Outrageous outgoings	Downing Street cancels plans for White House style press briefings after building a new room for White house Style press briefings	£2,600,000	BBC
Outrageous outgoings	Cost of Boris Johnson's Brexit celebration	£7,897	The Mirror
Outrageous outgoings	Bonuses for Post Office Executives after the Horizon scandal was known including for partaking in the inquiry	£1,600,000	Channel 4 / Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Cost of Kwasi Kwarteng sacking Tom Scholar before disastrous mini-budget	£457,000	The Independent
Outrageous outgoings	Legal fees for unlawful Rwanda Plan	£2,137,046	Democracy for Sale
Outrageous outgoings	MOD contract for "VIP" Helicopter rides which Sunak personally intervened to keep	£40,000,000	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Cost of the Prime Minister hosting the General Election 2 months after local elections	£33,000,000	The Mirror
Outrageous outgoings	Foreign Secretary charters ultra luxurious jet for overseas visits	£42,000,000	The Mirror
Outrageous outgoings	Department for Education gets a makeover while Schools crumble	£34,000,000	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	'Common Sense Tsar' claims for London property despite husband owning a flat less than a mile away.	£39,000	The Telegraph
Outrageous outgoings	'Common Sense Tsar' claims for personal photographer	£8,750	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Cost of post-Brexit border checks	£4,700,000,000	The Guardian
Outrageous outgoings	Home Secretary takes private jet to sign Sunak's Rwanda deal	£165,000	The Independent

Outrageous outgoings	In-flight lunch for Liz Truss	£15,000	Politico
Outrageous outgoings	Science Secretary uses taxpayer money to settle libel case	£34,000	Evening Standard
Duff Deals	research for a bridge to Ireland	£900,000	Sky News
Duff deals	Faulty antibody tests	£16,000,000	The Independent
Duff deals	Ill-timed Get Ready for Brexit campaign	£46,000,000	Business Insider
Duff deals	Extortionately expensive PPE coveralls	£364,000,000	Byline Times
Duff deals	Wasted money for test and trace contract that was never fulfilled	£38,400,000	The Independent
Duff deals	Money on a Green Homes Deal that failed to deliver	£314,000,000	The Guardian
Duff Deals	MoD: Cancelled projects and wastage since the financial year 2019-2020	£3,991,332,000	Labour
Duff Deals	MoD annual cash losses March 2022-March 2023	£2,800,000	Sky
Duff deals	PAC find that there was "no clear evidence" that Test and Trace had any impact on reducing Covid infections	£29,500,000,000	Full Fact Public Accounts Committee
Duff deals	DoJ: Botched projects	£238,000,000	The Independent
Duff Deals	Fraud in the two years following the beginning of the pandemic ⁵	£14,400,000,000	Sky
Duff Deals	Unused or unusable PPE, storing it and prematurely cancelling PPE contracts	£14,900,000,000	Financial Times
Duff Deals	Rishi Sunak did not insure National Debt against interest rate rise	£11,000,000,000	Financial Times
Duff Deals	Avoidable Mistakes in DOJ tagging programme	£98,000,000	Public Accounts Committee
Duff Deals	Public Accounts Committee says there's no way to tell if Covid traffic light travel system worked	£486,000,000	Evening standard
Duff Deals	Money paid to the Rwandan government to receive deported refugees despite no deportations taking place	£290,000,000	The Independent
Duff Deals	Money spent on a boat that will not be built	£2,500,000	City AM
Duff Deals	Money spent on surplus beds in children's homes in 2021 rather than on community support schemes	£14,100,000	The Guardian
Duff Deals	Levelling up money wasted because of inflation	£500,000,000	The Guardian
Duff Deals	Scrapped smart motorways	£60,000,000	the Telegraph
Duff Deals	Land for cancelled leg of HS2 sold at a loss	£100,000,000	The Times
Duff Deals	Money to replace striking junior doctors equals full pay restoration for junior doctors	£1,000,000,000	The Canary

Duff Deals	Tax payer subsidising up to 90% of weapons companies research/development	£3,200,000,000	Guardian
Duff Deals	Active travel Scheme	£1,650,000,000	Mail Online
Duff Deals	Money to pay for temporary classrooms due to concrete scandal	£16,500,000	Guardian Times
Duff Deals	Money spent on cancelled bits of HS2	£2,300,000,000	The i
Duff Deals	Faulty bus retrofitting	£31,000,000	Mirror
Duff Deals	Ineffective investment in modern housing construction	£10,000,000	Construction enquirer
Duff Deals	Promised public rail body unlikely to launch before the next election	£33,500,000	The i
Duff Deals	Subsidising the richest man in the world's car company	£61,300,000	Investor Chronicle
Duff Deals	Railway Bridge filled with concrete which was then removed	£476,000	Daily Express
Duff Deals	Costs incurred from of lack of investment in systems and infrastructure ⁶	£20,000,000,000	The Guardian
Duff Deals	Cost of the asylum backlog in 2023, keeping people fleeing danger in unsuitable accommodation rather than allowing them to rebuild their lives, work and pay tax.	£5,300,000,000	Press Association
Duff Deals	Money spent on more expensive plan to house asylum seekers in barges and RAF bases rather than hotels	£1,200,000,000	the Guardian
Duff Deals	New Home Office IT system which hampered the NHS and slowed action on illegal immigration	£71,000,000	The i
Crony Contracts	Political polling by Dominic Cummings' associates	£580,000	The Guardian
Crony Contracts	Government polling undertaken by Michael Gove's associates	£840,000	The Guardian
Crony Contracts	Paying Matt Hancock's neighbour to produce PPE	£30,000,000	The Guardian
Crony Contracts	Face shields from a Conservative Councillor's company	£120,000,000	The Independent
Crony Contracts	Genetic sequencing by David Cameron's employer	£123,000,000	The Times
Crony Contracts	Testing contract to Owen Paterson's employer	£479,000,000	BBC
Crony Contracts	PPE supplies from senior Government adviser	£252,000,000	Evening Standard
Crony Contracts	Lateral flow test contract to company employing Conservative MP	£100,000	The Times
Crony Contracts	Fashion company linked to the owners of Ayanda Capital awarded PPE contract	£25,800,000	Evening Standard
Crony Contracts	Fashion firm owned by Conservative donor awarded PPE contract	£160,000,000	Open Democracy

Crony Contracts	Firm advised by Lord Feldman, who was simultaneously advising the health minister, awarded PPE contract	£22,600,000	Financial Times
Crony Contracts	Port of Felixstowe awarded contract for 5G trial - port is managed by Chris Grayling's second employer	£1,600,000	Hutchison Ports
Crony Contracts	Ryse Hydrogen (which employs Conservative MP Julian Smith) awarded Government grants	£93,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Grants to a flying taxi company owned by Conservative donor	£12,400,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Family that had donated to the Conservatives sees their firm awarded contracts	£7,200,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Company chaired by Government adviser awarded PCR testing contract	£20,600,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Firm led by procurement chief wins £38m contract for Covid testing	£38,000,000	The Times
Crony Contracts	Firm belonging to Conservative donor awarded contract for remote-schooling laptops	£240,000,000	Good Law Project
Crony Contracts	Firm owned by Matt Hancock's friends awarded PPE contracts	£14,400,000	Racing Post
Crony Contracts	Firm that donated to the Conservatives awarded remote schooling laptop contract	£2,100,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Firm linked to Lord Ashcroft given Covid testing contract	£350,000,000	The Guardian
Crony Contracts	Pestfix (also a duff dealer) awarded further contracts and linked to DHSC official's family	£313,700,000	Good Law Project ; The Guardian
Crony Contracts	Firm linked to Matt Hancock's family awarded Covid testing deal	£5,500,000	Metro
Crony Contracts	Firm owned by ex-Conservative councillor and Conservative donor awarded contracts for the supply of masks and gowns	£275,000,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Firm employing Conservative MP secures NHS contract without competition	£63,000	Bedford Independent
Crony Contracts	Firm won contracts for PPE, testing, vaccines and ventilators - and has a prominent Conservative donor as its director	£5,900,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Early pandemic contracts awarded to firm directed by prominent Conservative donor	£16,200,000	The Independent
Crony Contracts	Company whose holding company donated to Conservatives awarded test and trace contract	£2,500,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Company whose director donated to the Conservatives awarded respirators contract ten days later	£93,000,000	Daily Record
Crony Contracts	Firm owned by a Conservative donor won a maintenance contract	£14,400,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	PPE delivery contracts to Conservative donor's firm	£11,000,000	The Independent

Crony Contracts	Contract for Covid-19 testing buildings given to Conservative donor's firm	£18,700,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Conservative donor's recruitment firm offered contract to supply staff for Covid-19 test sites	£2,500,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Company linked to Government PPE Tsar awarded Covid contract	£300,000	Good Law Project
Crony Contracts	Sanitiser contract to dormant firm	£43,800,000	The Canary
Crony Contracts	Covid contracts given to outsourcing firm whose board includes a Conservative politician	£110,000,000	The Times
Crony Contracts	Award of Covid contract to company owned by man with Government links	£15,000,000	Byline Times
Crony Contracts	Firm with ties to a pro-Brexit lobbying group which includes Rishi Sunak and Michael Gove awarded Covid contracts	£777,000,000	ITV
Crony Contracts	Damning report says Tories squandered billions on unfair 'levelling-up' fund	£1,700,000,000	Mirror
Crony Contracts	Tory minister's husband's firm awarded MoD IT contracts worth tens of millions	£35,200,000	The Times
Crony Contracts	Michelle Mone was paid £29m by the company she referred to government VIP lane	£202,850,000	The Guardian
Crony Contracts	Sunak's wife's firm makes money off Covid furlough scheme	£10,000	Mirror
Crony Contracts	Government contracts awarded to company which Rishi Sunak's wife holds stake worth hundreds of millions of pounds ⁷	£55,700,000	LBC
TOTAL		£131,209,116,062	

¹ compared to £67,000 spent by Dominic Raab when he was Foreign Secretary in the 6 months before the Covid 19 pandemic

² Estimate based on BEIS figure of £600k to review 318/4000 laws (7.95%). Officials cite "tens of millions of pounds"

³ Estimate based on £1bn spent in 5 years to August 2022; £600m estimated since 2019.

⁴ Figure represents a conservative estimate based on reported cost of a by-election from 2014

⁵ Minus 'normal' levels of fraud from two years before the pandemic and minus the amount expected to be recovered.

⁶ Figure represents a conservative estimate. The National Audit Office claimed tens of billions, suggesting at least £20 billion. The Shadow Treasury Secretary quoted in this piece cites "billions of pounds every month" suggesting at least £2billion per month equating to around £110 billion since Jan 2020.

⁷ LBC reported contracts worth over £100 million since 2011. The total comes from figures attributable to the years 2022 and 2023 as well as current contracts agreed by the Government. No details were reported for 2019-21