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The Sunday Times today carries jaw-dropping extracts from the new Liz Truss book about three overseas trips she made shortly after becoming Trade Secretary in 2019. In this thread, I want to focus on one aspect of those revelations: her expenses. (1/10). <https://t.co/WVISOzOpPD>

Earlier this year, I exposed the fact that Truss had failed to declare her full taxpayer-funded expenses on two trips in late 2020 to Japan and Singapore/Vietnam, and I started looking into whether she'd done the same on previous trips abroad. (2/10) <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/liz-truss-accused-hiding-truth-25863450>

In the DIT's official declarations of ministerial travel, hospitality, etc., published in Jan 2020, these were the entries for the three trips covered in today's Sunday Times story. Pay attention to the final column for the total costs of the trip, covering all expenses. (3/10) <https://t.co/cKm1coNjh7>

Minister of Trip	Start Date of Trip	End Date of Trip	Destination	Purpose of Trip	Mode of Transport	Cost of private jet or RAF plane hire, if relevant (£)	Total cost (for minister only) including all visas, accommodation, travel, meals etc (£)
Elizabeth Truss	2019-08-06	2019-08-10	Washington and New York, USA	Meetings with US Congress on tariffs	Scheduled flight	£0.00	£5,066.02
Elizabeth Truss	2019-09-14	2019-09-21	Wellington, New Zealand; Sydney and Canberra, Australia; Tokyo, Japan	Meetings with Ministers and Diageo	Scheduled flight	£0.00	£13,614.22
Elizabeth Truss	2019-09-21	2019-09-23	New York, USA	To attend the United Nation General Assembly	Scheduled flight	£0.00	£5,575.72

In April this year, I asked the DIT to separate out the costs of the scheduled flights that Truss had taken for these three trips, so I could work out how much she'd declared in non-travel expenses (hotels, meals, drinks, etc.) on each trip. Here were the answers. (4/10) <https://t.co/QGYCglzgH1>

Start Date	End Date	Destination	Transport	Total cost
06/08/2019	10/08/2019	Washington and New York, USA	Scheduled flight	£5,066.02
14/09/2019	21/09/2019	Wellington, New Zealand; Sydney and Canberra, Australia; Tokyo, Japan	Scheduled flight	£13,614.22
21/09/2019	23/09/2019	New York, USA	Scheduled flight	£5,575.72

On 6 April 2022, I received the following answers from then DIT Minister of State Penny Mordaunt in response to Written Parliamentary Questions concerning the cost of the scheduled flights taken by Liz Truss when making the three overseas trips listed above:

- In relation to the August 2019 trip to Washington DC and New York, Mordaunt said: "The stand-alone cost of tickets was **£5,066.02**. This comprised a return business class flight from London to Washington."
- In relation to the September 2019 trip to New Zealand, Australia and Japan, Mordaunt said: "The stand-alone cost of tickets was **£13,614.22**. This comprised several flights. Long haul flights...were booked at business class. Short haul flights...were booked at economy class."
- In relation to the September 2019 trip to New York, Mordaunt said: "The stand-alone cost of tickets was **£5,575.72**. This comprised a return business class flight from London to New York."

In other words, the DIT was claiming that – across these three trips, amounting to a full fortnight overseas – Truss had incurred not a penny of costs on hotels, meals, drinks and other expenses. On the back of today's extracts, you can judge how credible that is. (5/10) <https://t.co/10ELePcGJj>

Truss was furious and stayed up “knocking back espressos” until 3am in the bar of the hotel...Up at 6am and spotted in the hotel gym with Dominic Raab...Truss arrived at breakfast to a grim-faced team...Over chicken burgers in Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Truss conceded to her aides: “I think we’ve got away with it.”

The photographer had to stand outside in the rain, snapping Truss, British espresso and a sausage roll in hand, through the window...Freedom of information requests would later reveal a £1,483 freelance photographer was hired for the trip...Out until 3am, and somewhat worse for wear, Truss returned to the hotel to find her team trying to patch up the damage.

The last night in Tokyo was time to party...Sushi was sought, with shoes off and cushions on the floor...At the boss's insistence, it was on to cocktails at the top-floor bar at the Park Hyatt hotel...“We were all pretty smashed by the time Liz suggested karaoke.”...The team suspected that Truss had not slept when she was downstairs waiting for them all at six the next morning.

While not a formal “rider” in the style of a travelling rock star, orders were sent ahead to embassies around the world with details of what she would expect on a visit: Double espressos served in a flat-white-sized takeaway cup; No big-brand coffee, independent producers only...Nothing to be served that has not been freshly prepared...Bagels or sushi for lunch...A bottle of sauvignon blanc provided in the fridge of any overnight accommodation.

Since April, I have been pursuing answers about why zero non-travel expenses were declared for these trips. Finally, after Truss's resignation, the DIT conceded that £540.91 was spent on three nights' hotel accommodation in the US from 6-8 August 2019. But that is all. (6/10)

The DIT say Truss stayed in embassy accommodation throughout her NZ/Aus/Japan trip. Foreign Office records say they put her up for four nights over that time. Does that leave 1 or 2 nights unaccounted for? Based on the Sunday Times extracts, it certainly sounds like it. (7/10)

And if you think all this stopped when Truss left the DIT, think again. In her time as Foreign Secretary, I've identified five more overnight foreign trips – including her notorious £454,626 flight to Australia – where she claimed zero non-travel expenses were incurred. (8/10)

Of course, Truss is gone, so does any of this still matter? Well it does if you believe governments should have to tell the truth, especially where taxpayers' money is involved, because if they get away with it in one case, they will do it again whenever it suits them. (9/10)

So I will keep digging away at this, armed with today's fresh details. For which, all credit to [@MrHarryCole](#) and [@JAHeale](#), and do read the extracts from their book in [@thetimes](#) if you can. It confirms everything I ever thought about Liz Truss's approach to trade, and her job.