# Twitter Thread by Fionna O'Leary, ■■■



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## Waste, Negligence & Cronyism: Inside UK’s Pandemic Spending - The New York Times

## I see the US has picked up the UK Pandemic spending scandal whilst our Gov claims there’s nothing to see ■@JolyonMaugham■ ■@DamianHastie■ ■@allthecitizens■

Of the $22billion contracts awarded about $11 billion went to companies either run by friends and associates of politicians in the Conservative Party, or with no prior experience or a history of controversy. Meanwhile, smaller firms without political clout got nowhere.

Seven months on just over half the contracts awarded remain hidden from the public.

But 1 in 10 contracts that went through the Government’s VIP Crony lane were awarded compared to 1 in 100 through the ordinary lane.

What’s our anti corruption Tzar, Dido Harding’s husband, John Penrose, doing about it? (You couldn’t make it up).

The thing is, they think it is perfectly normal. I mean, they get the contracts because they are mates & donors who just happen to be better than the little folk.

Meanwhile companies like Multibrand who actually manufacture PPE just got ignored..

About $5 billion went to politically connected companies with former ministers, gov advisers on their board/ staff. Others were Tory Party donors.

Some contracts, such as the MedPro one in June, one wonders why it was needed at all.