

## 'Agoraphobic' tour operator faces jail for benefit fraud

A travel writer and tour operator faces jail after being convicted of falsely claiming nearly £50,000 in disability benefits.

Tracy Johnson, 52, spent four months in Argentina at taxpayers' expense while telling the Department for Work and Pensions she was unable to leave the house because of her agoraphobia. Johnson admitted running a tour company in Argentina and spending four months in Goa, India, but denied fraud. The former model, who has written three novels, claimed her son was using her credit card abroad while she was unable to

leave her mother's home in Llandrindod Wells, Powys. In her LinkedIn profile, she described herself as a dancer, actress, DJ, interior designer and wedding photographer.

Joanna James, for the prosecution, said Johnson's activities had been "absolute, blatant dishonesty". She told Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court: "Tracy Johnson was living the life that honest, decent, hard-working taxpayers could only dream of."

Johnson was warned by Judge Andrew Grubb that she would be jailed when she was sentenced later this month.