# Michael Gove awarded peerage amidst backlash from education unions



Michael Gove, former Cabinet minister and prominent Conservative politician, has been awarded a peerage as part of Rishi Sunak's resignation honours list. This list, which included other notable figures such as Jeremy Hunt and James Cleverly, has drawn immediate criticism for allegedly rewarding close allies with titles that some see as undeserved. The peerage permits Gove to join the House of Lords, affording him the opportunity to return to a position of influence within the UK Parliament.

In receiving his peerage, Gove has faced backlash, particularly from education unions, considering his controversial tenure as Education Secretary from 2010 to 2014. Daniel Kebede, General Secretary of the National Education Union, referred to the honour as a "slap in the face" to those who suffered under Gove's policies, which have been said to inflict “deep harm” on the education system still felt today. He cited deteriorating student mental health and excessive pressure on teachers as legacies of Gove's term, highlighting a disparity between the honour bestowed upon him and the reality experienced by educators and students.

During his nearly two decades in Parliament, Gove has held multiple government positions, ultimately serving as Housing Secretary but also overseeing the Ministry of Justice, the Environment Department, and the Education Department. His political career has been marked by numerous controversies, which have contributed to a polarising public image.

Among his notable public incidents, a 2022 interview where Gove mimicked a Scouse accent while speaking about the cost-of-living crisis attracted significant criticism. Labour's Lisa Nandy expressed her dismay at Gove's apparent levity in discussing serious financial difficulties faced by many families, labelling the situation as "not a game".

In the realm of education, Gove's administration was characterised by a combative relationship with teachers and unions. He coined the term "The Blob" to label critics of his educational reforms, which included significant changes to exams, academisation, and the scrutiny of league tables. Pepe Di’Iasio, General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, acknowledged Gove's belief in education's transformative power, yet noted that his confrontational approach alienated educators.

Gove's personal conduct has also come under scrutiny, such as his dancefloor appearances in Aberdeenshire, where he was filmed enjoying himself at nightclubs while holding ministerial office. These moments have led to mixed reactions from the public, straddling the line between light-heartedness and unprofessionalism in the context of government responsibilities.

His career has been marred by accusations of hypocrisy, particularly regarding his comments on drug use after admitting to past use of cocaine while criticising others for similar behaviours. Gove's cancellation of Labour's £55 billion school building programme shortly after taking office in 2010 led to a significant backlash, culminating in a high court ruling that deemed the decision "unfair" and "an abuse of power". He later conceded that his approach to this decision was poorly executed, describing it as crass and insensitive.

Additionally, Gove's tenure as Housing Secretary saw criticisms regarding the rise in child homelessness, highlighting failures to deliver on commitments made during previous electoral campaigns to curb no-fault evictions.

His role in the Brexit campaign added to his controversial reputation. Notably, he entered the leadership race in 2016, hindering then-favourite Boris Johnson's ambitions, resulting in some calling him a "traitor."

Recent discussions have also resurfaced regarding unsavoury remarks from his youth, including derogatory comments about race and sexuality made during his time at university, which have prompted renewed condemnation.

As part of the honours list, Gove's peerage has reignited discussions about the legacy he leaves behind, encompassing a career filled with both achievements and contentious acts. The announcement raises questions about the nature of political rewards and the perception of accountability within British politics.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-peerages-resignation-honours-gove-b2731507.html> - This article confirms that Michael Gove has been awarded a peerage in Rishi Sunak's resignation honors list, highlighting Gove's influential but controversial career in British politics.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/michael-gove-rishi-sunak-peerage-b2731425.html> - It explains Gove's peerage and mentions other notable figures honored by Rishi Sunak, while also touching on the tradition of outgoing prime ministers awarding titles to allies.
* <https://news.sky.com/story/veteran-cabinet-minister-michael-gove-awarded-peerage-in-rishi-sunaks-resignation-honours-13346250> - This article supports the claim that Gove has received a peerage as part of Sunak's resignation honors, detailing Gove's long career in cabinet positions and his impact on British politics.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source does not appear in the search results but is mentioned as the original article source, discussing Gove's career and the controversy surrounding his peerage.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/michael-gove-rishi-sunak-peerage-b2731425.html> - It discusses Gove's political career and controversies, including his tenure as Education Secretary and his role in the Brexit campaign, which have contributed to his polarizing public image.