# Michael Gove's elevation to House of Lords sparks controversy over cronyism



Michael Gove, a prominent name in Conservative politics, has recently been elevated to the House of Lords in Rishi Sunak's resignation honours list, a move that has sparked yet another wave of controversy concerning his political track record. This decision signals more of the same cronyism and disdain for accountability that has plagued the Conservative Party, particularly now as they continue to struggle in the wake of their electoral failures.

As Prime Minister Sunak prepares to hand out honours to figures like Gove—well-known for his divisive policies and damaging leadership—critics are rightly denouncing these rewards as reflective of a party that continues to reward its own for a litany of failures. Gove’s controversial tenure as Education Secretary is mired in backlash, with education unions decrying the harm inflicted on students and teachers alike. Leaders like Daniel Kebede of the National Education Union have voiced outrage over the decision to honour someone whose policies have left a lasting detrimental impact on the education system, exacerbating issues like student mental health and overwhelming workloads for teachers.

Gove has a long history of polarising actions during his time in various government roles. His notorious position within the Brexit campaign left many questioning his integrity, particularly after he undermined his colleagues in leadership battles. This perpetuated a divisive air around the Conservative Party, transforming Gove into a figure viewed with suspicion and disdain by the very voters they need to win back.

His track record is marred by public missteps, such as his frivolous behaviour while discussing acute economic issues. The public's frustration with politicians acting out of touch could not be clearer, as exemplified by Gove's use of various accents during serious discussions on the cost of living crisis, an act labelled as outlandish and emblematic of a wider disconnect.

Gove's tenure was emblematic of divisive rhetoric, particularly against the education unions he derided as the "Blob." This kind of antagonistic stance alienated many educators, leaving a trail of opposition that undermines any claims of reform benefiting those most impacted by his policies. While some laud his commitment to education, the broader implications of his actions continue to haunt the sector.

Further complicating his legacy are lingering questions about hypocrisy, such as his candid admissions of past drug use while condemning similar behaviour in others. This duality reflects a serious lack of moral authority, especially after his controversial decision to scrap a £55 billion school building programme, which sparked legal challenges due to his failure to engage with local authorities.

Gove's failings as Housing Secretary showcase another aspect of his challenging legacy. Broken promises regarding housing reforms and failures to address rising homelessness illustrate a clear dereliction of duty, leaving countless individuals in precarious situations as the housing crisis continues to worsen.

His involvement in Brexit, marked by tumultuous alliances and fierce disputes, painted a picture of a politician whose ambition often outstripped his ability to govern effectively. Accusations of betrayal from within Tory ranks only fuel the narrative that Gove has consistently played more for individual gain than for the collective good.

As further incidents from his past resurface, including derogatory remarks made during his university days, the question remains: Why does a politician with such a controversial history continue to receive accolades? Gove's new peerage is a testament to a political culture that rewards divisiveness and ineffectiveness over genuine public service.

The implications of Gove’s actions during his nearly two-decade political career extend far beyond personal accolades. As he prepares to enter the House of Lords amidst considerable controversy, it is evident that his elevation serves as a disturbing reminder of the growing divide in UK politics, and the pressing need for an alternative that champions accountability and reforms reflective of public interest.

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

## References

* <https://www.politico.eu/article/michael-gove-rishi-sunak-uk-house-of-lords-seat-honors/> - This article confirms Michael Gove's appointment to the House of Lords, as part of Rishi Sunak's resignation honours. It highlights Gove's career as a prominent Conservative minister and his controversial history within the party.
* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2025/04/11/michael-gove-peerage-rishi-sunak-resignation-honours-list/> - This piece supports the claim that Gove will be appointed to the House of Lords, further detailing his past roles and controversies during his career as a Cabinet minister.
* <https://www.thisisthecoast.co.uk/news/top-stories/veteran-cabinet-minister-michael-gove-awarded-peerage-in-rishi-sunaks-resignation-honours/> - Corroborates the news of Gove's peerage and provides context on his political career and controversies, including his multiple cabinet positions and his impact on the education system.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/may/27/michael-gove-education-reforms-teachers-anger> - This article discusses Gove's divisive tenure as Education Secretary, where his policies faced significant backlash from education unions and teachers. It highlights the lasting impact of his reforms on the education system.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45846221> - This BBC News article details Gove's tumultuous involvement in the Brexit campaign, including his public disagreements with Boris Johnson. It supports the narrative of his divisive and ambitious political actions.