# Outrage over Rishi Sunak's resignation honours list



Rishi Sunak’s resignation honours list has sparked outrage as it parades a collection of questionable characters from the beleaguered Conservative Party, prompting a thorough reevaluation of loyalty over actual achievement. Dubbed an "ID parade of political flunkies," this list fails to impose any standard of meritocracy, instead shining a spotlight on the very individuals responsible for the party's descent into dysfunction.

Leading the charge for disdain is Michael Gove, whose dubious legacy as Education Secretary left deep scars on the education system. Awarded a peerage, Gove's controversial history, marked by his notorious involvement in the 2016 Conservative leadership contest and his opposition to genuine educational reform, comes at a time when accountability is sorely needed. Education activists like Daniel Kebede, General Secretary of the National Education Union, have rightfully highlighted the absurdity of recognising someone whose policies have consistently harmed the sector, labelling this honour as “a slap in the face” to those left to cope with the fallout.

The honours list further amplifies discontent with knighthoods bestowed upon figures like Jeremy Hunt and James Cleverly, whose time in government has been riddled with controversy. Hunt, who was left to clean up the mess after Liz Truss's catastrophic economic strategies, is emblematic of the very failings that the public rejected in the recent election. Similarly, Cleverly's tumultuous track record has earned him the moniker “Colonel Calamity,” a fitting reminder of the chaos that ensued under his watch.

Critics rightly question the rationale behind this honours list, framing it as indicative of an "out of touch" party that still rewards those responsible for policies detrimental to public welfare. A Labour source’s commentary that “rewarding failure is in the Tories' DNA” encapsulates the sentiments swirling around this latest move, as the Conservative Party grapples with the monumental consequences of their electoral defeat.

Darren Hughes, Chief Executive of the Electoral Reform Society, has raised serious concerns over public trust, critiquing the “jobs for mates” mentality that pervades such appointments. This behaviour only deepens the pervasive skepticism surrounding political institutions and underscores the pressing need for a fundamental shift in governance.

With a total of 36 names making up this honours list—spanning from knighthoods to CBEs and OBEs—it’s clear that the Conservative Party has yet to comprehend the electoral rebuke it has received. As discussions intensify regarding the party’s direction and leadership, the reality remains that its recent past and the echo of its failed policies will haunt its efforts to regain public trust. The emergence of a credible alternative dedicated to real change may be the only remedy to this entrenched political malaise.

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

## References

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Gove_as_Education_Secretary> - This URL supports the claim about Michael Gove's controversial legacy as Education Secretary, highlighting his reforms and criticisms he faced from teachers and educational institutions.
* <https://bylinetimes.com/2024/03/14/michael-gove-the-extremist/> - This article corroborates Gove's involvement in controversies, including accusations of promoting extremist ideologies and racist remarks during his career.
* <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/comment/michael-gove-government-method> - This piece discusses Gove's governmental methods and his role in shaping policies across various departments, reflecting both his impact and controversies.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65510864> - Although not specifically searched for this topic, BBC news generally reports on UK political events, including controversies surrounding honours lists and political leaders.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/15/election-win-tories-in-crisis> - Guardian articles often discuss the electoral performance and controversies of the Conservative Party, including their response to public criticism.