

# Micheal Gove thinks tax should be managed locally in th...

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In his [Ditchley lecture](#) on the future of the role of government yesterday Michael Gove said:

We can, literally, reduce the distance between Government and people by relocating Government decision-making centres to different parts of our United Kingdom. And in doing so we should be striving to reflect the full diversity of our United Kingdom. Why shouldn't some of the policymakers intimately involved in reshaping our approach to energy and the decarbonisation of our economy be in Teesside, Humberside and Aberdeen? Shouldn't those thinking about this sector be part of the communities whose jobs depend on getting these decisions right?

He added:

And why are so many of those charged with developing our tax and welfare policies still based in London?

Before saying:

Wouldn't it be better for those deciding how taxpayers' money is spent to be living and working alongside those citizens across the country, from Mansfield to Middlesbrough to Merthyr Tydfil, for whom every pound in tax is a significant inroad into their income? Should we not also be better at recruiting our policymakers from those overlooked and

And this from a man who seems blissfully unaware that the governments in which he has served [have just closed all the 170 local tax offices in the UK](#), breaking all connection between tax offices and the communities that they serve, whilst leaving no tax office for the south-west closer than Bristol, no tax offices in East Anglia at all, and none in Scotland north of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

It's very hard to make up incompetence on this scale.