



# How British monarchy will adapt after king's cancer diagnosis

London, United Kingdom

King Charles III will withdraw from public life to undergo treatment for cancer. What does this mean for the British monarchy?

What are King Charles III's functions? Charles is the head of state of the United Kingdom as well as 14 other Commonwealth countries, from Canada to Australia and Jamaica.

His functions are essentially ceremonial and he is not supposed to intervene in political debate. However, he is required to enact British laws, appoint a prime minister and open parliamentary sessions, among other official duties.

He also has diplomatic duties which Charles, 75, has enthusiastically embraced since his accession to the throne

17 months ago.

He has hosted visiting heads of state, travelled to Germany, France and Kenya and delivered a speech at the COP28 climate conference.

## William, Camilla take the lead

The British public mostly sees the royal family travelling across the country for hundreds of visits each year to associations, public services or for inaugurations. They also support initiatives for the homeless and encourage reading and nature conservation.

Charles has been particularly active since becoming monarch -- and even before as heir to Queen Elizabeth II, as her health faltered in the final years before her death in September 2022.

His absence, while he rested after a prostate operation in January, has brought his wife, Queen Camilla, increasingly into the spotlight.

At 76, Camilla has maintained an active schedule, even in recent days, when the king's cancer had already been diagnosed.

As the heir, William, 41, will find himself at the forefront of royal duties.

However, his widely popular wife Kate is out of action until at least the end of March, after abdominal surgery in mid-January.

William had stepped back to

stay by Kate's side and take care of their three children.

His return is scheduled for Wednesday with award ceremonies and a charity gala.

According to the British press, he will take over some of his father's responsibilities.

The simultaneous absence of two "royals" highlights the reduction in the number of active members of the monarchy after the withdrawal of the disgraced Prince Andrew.

The king's brother attracted damaging headlines over his friendship with the late US sex offender financier Jeffrey Epstein. Harry, Charles's younger son, meanwhile, is estranged from the family.

## Behind the scenes, Charles continues to manage 'state affairs'

While undergoing treatment, Charles "will continue to take care of state affairs and administrative tasks as usual", Buckingham Palace said.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, with whom the monarch speaks once a week, has already said communication with him would continue

as usual.

According to the British media, the king continues to receive his famous "red boxes" of official documents every morning and will hold meetings with advisors.

He can also hold video conferences, as the queen did during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Royal family biographer Robert Hardman told the BBC that "the day-to-day operation of the monarchy is not going to change", even though the king will stay away from the public to protect his health.

"It doesn't prevent doing things, there's no constitutional concern," he said.

## And if the king is no longer able to work?

The monarch can be replaced by two "Counsellors of State" drawn from a list that includes the queen, the heir, and certain family members like his sister Anne or his brother Edward.

The royal family specified to Parliament at the end of 2022 that "only its active members" could "in practice" act as Counsellors of State, effectively excluding Harry and Andrew.



## Iran suspected in plot to kill Swedish Jews: report

Stockholm, Sweden

Swedish radio reported yesterday that an Iranian couple, believed to be working for Iranian intelligence, were deported after being suspected in a plot to kill Swedish Jews.

According to an investigative report by Swedish Radio (SR), the couple, Mahdi Ramezani and Fereshteh Sanaeifarid, had applied for and been granted asylum in Sweden posing as Afghans.

Suspected of plotting to kill Swedish Jews, the couple were

arrested in April 2021 on suspicion of conspiracy to commit a terrorist crime, SR reported.

Due to a lack of evidence, the two were never charged but they were reportedly deported in 2022 for posing a security risk.

"We have strong belief that they were here on a mission on behalf of Iran. They were seen here in Sweden as a very severe security threat. And that's the reason why they were expelled, even if we couldn't prosecute them," deputy chief prosecutor Hans Ihrman told the broadcaster.

## Appeals court rejects Trump claim of immunity from prosecution

The ruling is a major legal setback for Trump

A spokesman said the former president would appeal

Washington, United States

Donald Trump has no immunity from prosecution as a former president and can be tried on charges of conspiring to overturn the 2020 election, a federal appeals court ruled yesterday.

A three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said Trump's claim that he is immune from criminal liability for actions he took while in the White House is "unsupported by precedent, history or the text and structure of the Constitution."

The ruling is a major legal setback for Trump, 77, the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, and he is expected to appeal it to the full DC appeals court and potentially the US Supreme Court.

A spokesman for Trump said the former president would appeal.

Trump had been scheduled to go on trial on March 4 on charges of conspiring to overturn the results of the 2020 election won by Democrat Joe Biden but the district judge overseeing the



Former US President and 2024 presidential hopeful Donald Trump speaks at a Commit to Caucus Rally in Las Vegas, Nevada

case was forced to postpone the start of the trial pending a ruling on the immunity issue by the appeals court.

District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who is to preside over Trump's election interference trial, rejected Trump's immunity claim in December and the three judges who heard his appeal last month were also unconvinced by his arguments.

"For the purpose of this criminal case, former President Trump has become citizen Trump, with all of the defenses of any other criminal defendant," the judges said in a unanimous ruling.

"But any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as President no longer protects him against this prosecution," they said.

Special Counsel Jack Smith, who brought the election conspiracy case against Trump, had

fully executed' allows him to violate criminal laws," said Judge Karen Henderson, an appointee of former Republican president George H.W. Bush.

Trump's attorney John Sauer told the judges that a president can only be prosecuted for actions taken while in the White House if first impeached and convicted by Congress.

"To authorize the prosecution of a president for his official acts would open a Pandora's Box from which this nation may never recover," Sauer said.

James Pearce, a Justice Department attorney, called that an "extraordinarily frightening" prospect and said it would allow a president to resign before being impeached and escape punishment.

## US House Republicans hold vote to impeach homeland security chief

Washington, United States

US lawmakers will vote Tuesday on impeaching Joe Biden's immigration chief over the border crisis, a hugely unusual maneuver seen by Democrats as a political provocation ahead of November's presidential election.

The move has been led by hardline Republicans in the House of Representatives who have been targeting Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for months over a surge in illegal entries across

the southern border.

Republicans are sweating on what is expected to be a close vote, and even if Mayorkas is impeached -- the political equivalent of an indictment -- he is certain to be acquitted at his trial in the Democratic-led Senate. The House -- which has only impeached one other cabinet official, Secretary of War William Belknap in 1876 -- will take one vote on two articles accusing Mayorkas of failure to enforce the law and of lying to Congress. If all 431 House members are present and voting, Republicans -- who command a narrow majority in the lower chamber -- can afford to lose just three votes and two figures on the right of the party are already rebelling.



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**Trump also faces election interference charges in the state of Georgia and has been indicted in Florida on charges of illegally taking large numbers of top secret documents with him on leaving the White House.**