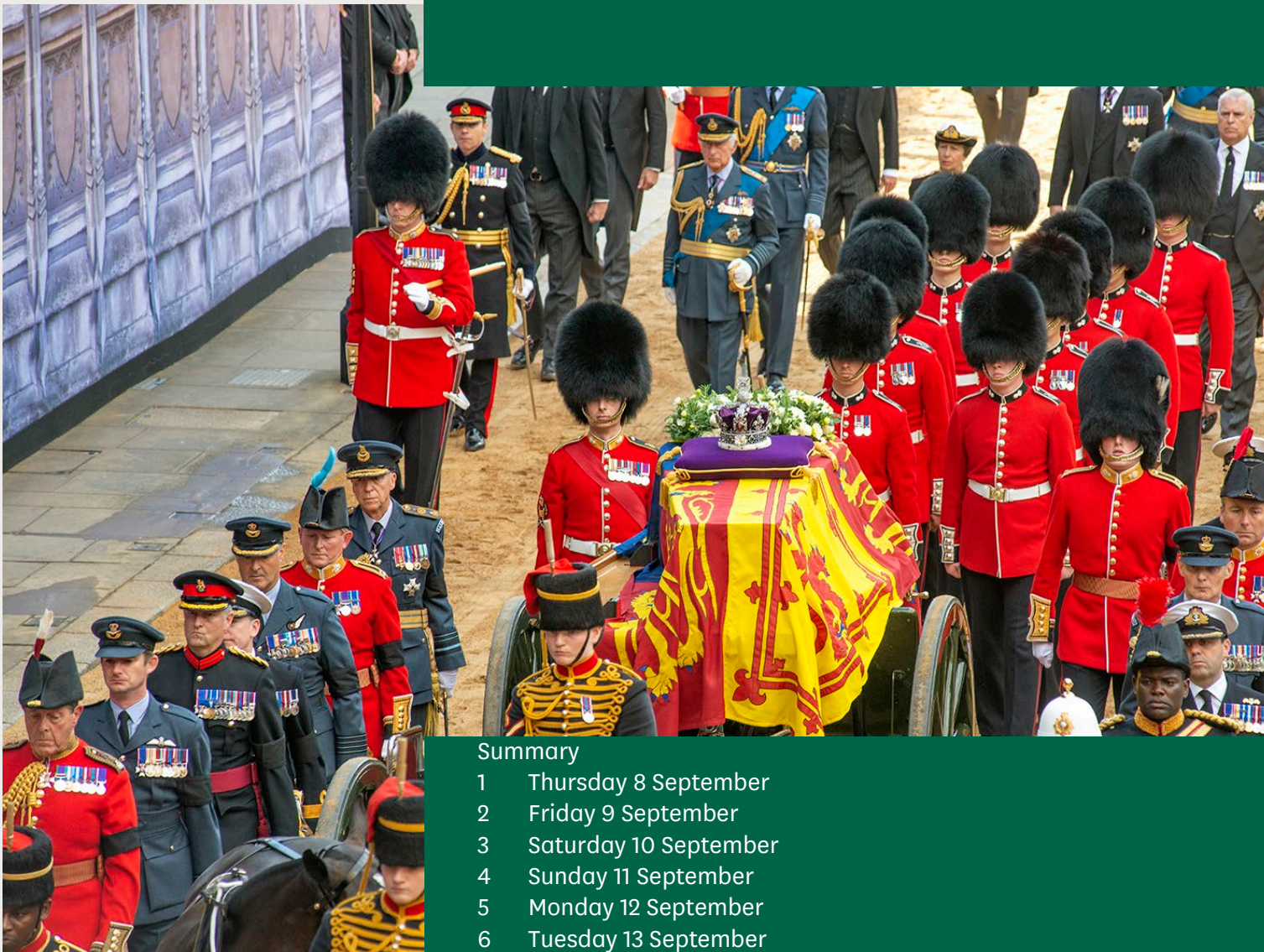


Research Briefing

29 September 2022

By David Torrance

# The Accession of King Charles III



## Summary

- 1 Thursday 8 September
- 2 Friday 9 September
- 3 Saturday 10 September
- 4 Sunday 11 September
- 5 Monday 12 September
- 6 Tuesday 13 September
- 7 Wednesday 14 September
- 8 Thursday 15 September
- 9 Friday 16 September
- 10 Saturday 17 September

### Image Credits

©UK Parliament by Annabel Moeller

### Disclaimer

The Commons Library does not intend the information in our research publications and briefings to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. We have published it to support the work of MPs. You should not rely upon it as legal or professional advice, or as a substitute for it. We do not accept any liability whatsoever for any errors, omissions or misstatements contained herein. You should consult a suitably qualified professional if you require specific advice or information. Read our briefing [‘Legal help: where to go and how to pay’](#) for further information about sources of legal advice and help. This information is provided subject to the conditions of the Open Parliament Licence.

### Sources and subscriptions for MPs and staff

We try to use sources in our research that everyone can access, but sometimes only information that exists behind a paywall or via a subscription is available. We provide access to many online subscriptions to MPs and parliamentary staff, please contact [hoclibraryonline@parliament.uk](mailto:hoclibraryonline@parliament.uk) or visit [commonslibrary.parliament.uk/resources](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/resources) for more information.

### Feedback

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email [papers@parliament.uk](mailto:papers@parliament.uk). Please note that authors are not always able to engage in discussions with members of the public who express opinions about the content of our research, although we will carefully consider and correct any factual errors.

You can read our feedback and complaints policy and our editorial policy at [commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk). If you have general questions about the work of the House of Commons email [hcenquiries@parliament.uk](mailto:hcenquiries@parliament.uk).

# Contents

<b>Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 Thursday 8 September</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2 Friday 9 September</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3 Saturday 10 September</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>4 Sunday 11 September</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>5 Monday 12 September</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>6 Tuesday 13 September</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>7 Wednesday 14 September</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>8 Thursday 15 September</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>9 Friday 16 September</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>10 Saturday 17 September</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>11 Sunday 18 September</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>12 Monday 19 September</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>13 Future Accession events</b>	<b>52</b>

## Summary

His Majesty King Charles III immediately succeeded to the Throne upon the death of his mother, Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on the afternoon of Thursday 8 September.

To quote the Victorian constitutionalist Walter Bagehot, the Accession of a monarch animates both the “dignified” and “efficient” parts of the uncodified British constitution. It involves not only the UK Parliament but also the Government, the Privy Council and the established Church of England.

No two Accessions are the same, although some aspects have a deep historical provenance. The death of Queen Elizabeth was announced on Twitter and many aspects of The King’s Accession were televised, not only his first Privy Council meeting but also the late sovereign’s Lying-in-State, State Funeral at Westminster Abbey and Committal Ceremony at Windsor. The Queen’s death at her Balmoral estate initiated an unprecedented period of Scottish ceremonial, including a day in which the late monarch’s Coffin Lay-at-Rest in St Giles’ Cathedral. The UK’s other established church, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, played a prominent role.

The Accession of Charles III also reflected a UK constitution significantly changed from that in February 1952. Among The King’s first acts as Sovereign was to visit Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, all autonomous parts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. King Charles succeeded to the Throne in Scotland (the first monarch to do so since 1567), met representatives of both the Nationalist and Unionist communities in Northern Ireland and addressed the Senedd in both Welsh and English.

This briefing paper describes the constitutional and ceremonial events that followed the Accession of King Charles. It analyses an important 12 days in the history of the UK and its constitutional monarchy.

For further analysis of events associated with the Demise of the Crown between 1901 and 1952, please see the House of Commons Library Briefing Paper, [The death of a monarch](#).

# 1

## Thursday 8 September

On Tuesday 6 September 2022 Queen Elizabeth II appointed Liz Truss MP Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury at [Balmoral Castle](#). It was among the late sovereign's final official acts.<sup>1</sup>

The [Court Circular](#) recorded the change of Prime Minister:

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP had an audience of The Queen this morning and tendered his resignation as Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to accept [...]

Her Majesty received in audience the Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP this afternoon and requested her to form a new Administration. The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP accepted The Queen's offer and kissed hands upon her appointment as Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury [...].<sup>2</sup>

On 6 September and 7 September, The Queen approved several Cabinet and junior ministerial appointments.<sup>3</sup> A virtual meeting of the [Privy Council](#) was arranged for Wednesday evening, at which new Privy Counsellors would have been sworn and certain Cabinet ministers would have collected their seals and sworn their Oaths of Office.<sup>4</sup> This meeting was cancelled. "After a full day yesterday," a [Buckingham Palace](#) spokesperson explained, "Her Majesty has this afternoon accepted doctors' advice to rest."<sup>5</sup> The Queen's final public statement was a message of condolence for the victims of stabbings in Saskatchewan.<sup>6</sup>

Early on the afternoon of 8 September, Buckingham Palace released a statement:

Following further evaluation this morning, The Queen's doctors are concerned for Her Majesty's health and have recommended she remain under medical supervision.

The Queen remains comfortable and at Balmoral.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The photographer Jane Barlow captured the [last public photograph of Queen Elizabeth II](#) shortly before her audience with Liz Truss.

<sup>2</sup> Court Circular, 6 September 2022. See also Commons Library Insight, [How is a Prime Minister appointed?](#)

<sup>3</sup> 10 Downing Street website, [Ministerial Appointments: September 2022](#), 7 September 2022.

<sup>4</sup> See Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP7460, [The Privy Council: history, functions and membership](#).

<sup>5</sup> [Queen to miss virtual privy council meeting after doctors advise rest](#), Guardian, 7 September 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Royal Family website, [A message from The Queen to the Governor General and the people of Canada](#), 7 September 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Royal Family website, [A statement from Buckingham Palace](#), 8 September 2022.

This was followed by a statement from the Speaker in the House of Commons:

Order. I wish to say something about the announcement that has just been made about Her Majesty. I know that I speak on behalf of the entire House when I say that we send our best wishes to Her Majesty the Queen, and that she and the royal family are in our thoughts and prayers at this moment. I am not going to take any contributions on this now; if there is anything else, we will update the House accordingly.<sup>8</sup>

The House of Commons adjourned at 16:55. At 18:30, the Palace released another statement:

The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon. The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow.<sup>9</sup>

The [announcement was made on Twitter](#), and later black-bordered notices were affixed to the gates of Buckingham Palace and the [Palace of Holyroodhouse](#).<sup>10</sup> The BBC presenter Huw Edwards read out the Palace announcement during a live broadcast on the BBC News Channel and on BBC1. Three minutes later, Edwards repeated the statement across all BBC TV channels, after which the [National Anthem](#) was played.<sup>11</sup>

An extraordinary edition of [The Gazette](#) (with a black border) was published on Friday 9 September 2022. This stated that: “The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral yesterday afternoon.”<sup>12</sup> The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, later said in a statement that she “was fortunate to share the last 24 hours of my dearest Mother’s life”. “It has been an honour and a privilege”, added Her Royal Highness, “to accompany her on her final journeys.”<sup>13</sup> The Queen’s death certificate later stated that she had died at 15:10 of “Old Age”.<sup>14</sup>

## The Accession

By law, the Accession of [His Majesty King Charles III](#) to the Throne was immediate.<sup>15</sup> The King succeeded while in Scotland, the first monarch to have done so since 1567.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> [HC Deb 8 September 2022 Vol 719 c414](#)

<sup>9</sup> Royal Family website, [Announcement of the death of The Queen](#), 8 September 2022.

<sup>10</sup> [Notice of Queen’s death fixed to gates of Buckingham](#), Metro, 8 September 2022.

<sup>11</sup> [How news of the Queen’s death was revealed on TV](#), MailOnline, 8 September 2022.

<sup>12</sup> [The Gazette, 9 September 2022](#). The Gazette is the official public record and comprises the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes. The black border was removed from Gazettes [after 20 September](#).

<sup>13</sup> Royal Family website, [A statement from the Princess Royal](#), 13 September 2022.

<sup>14</sup> [Queen’s cause of death revealed as extract of certificate published](#), Sky News, 29 September 2022.

<sup>15</sup> See the [Bill of Rights](#) (1689) and the [Act of Settlement 1701](#). See also Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8885, [The Crown and the constitution](#).

<sup>16</sup> King James VI succeeded to the Scottish Throne as an infant after his mother, Mary Queen of Scots, was forced to abdicate. James VI was also in Scotland when he succeeded to the English Throne (as James I) in 1603.

Charles immediately became [Supreme Governor of the Church of England](#) and King of the 14 [Commonwealth Realms](#),<sup>17</sup> as well as Head of the [Commonwealth](#).<sup>18</sup> The King also succeeded his mother as the [Duke of Lancaster](#). By law, The King's wife, Camilla, became [The Queen Consort](#).<sup>19</sup> The Duke of Cambridge (Prince William) immediately became the Duke of Cornwall and the Duke of Rothesay.<sup>20</sup> The [line of succession](#) to the Throne also immediately changed and all The King's grandchildren became eligible to "enjoy the style title or attribute of Royal Highness with their titular dignity of Prince or Princess prefixed to their respective Christian names".<sup>21</sup>

Under the [Regency Act 1937](#), The Queen Consort and the next four members of the Royal Family of age and in the line of succession became Counsellors of State, that is those able to carry out Royal functions on behalf of the monarch if ill or absent from the UK.<sup>22</sup>

Queen's Counsel automatically became King's Counsel,<sup>23</sup> and the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court the [King's Bench](#).<sup>24</sup>

Shortly after the announcement of The Queen's death, the Palace released a statement from The King:

The death of my beloved Mother, Her Majesty The Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family.

We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished Sovereign and a much-loved Mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world.

During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which The Queen was so widely held.<sup>25</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> These are Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, Belize, The Bahamas, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, and Grenada.

<sup>18</sup> The Commonwealth Headship is not hereditary, but The King's succession had been agreed in advance among the 56 members of the Commonwealth.

<sup>19</sup> In her 2022 Accession Day message, Queen Elizabeth II said it was her "sincere wish" when her "son Charles becomes King" that Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, "will be known as Queen Consort" (see Royal Family website, [The Queen's Accession Day message](#), 5 February 2022).

<sup>20</sup> Under a 1469 Act of the Parliament of Scotland, the heir to the Throne is also Earl of Carrick and Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland

<sup>21</sup> See Craig Prescott, [Modernising the Monarchy: Moving Beyond the 1917 Letters Patent and the 'George V Convention'](#), UK Constitutional Law Association blog, 23 March 2021.

<sup>22</sup> See [section 6\(2\)](#) of the Regency Act 1937. The Counsellors of State are now the Queen Consort, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Sussex, Prince Andrew and Princess Beatrice. See also Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP9374, [Regency and Counsellors of State](#).

<sup>23</sup> See Scott Wortley, [Why did Queen's Counsel automatically become King's Counsel? Parliament and the Demise of the Crown Act 1901](#), ICLR website, 13 September 2022.

<sup>24</sup> The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales and Senior President of Tribunals [released a statement following the death of Queen Elizabeth II](#). The Scottish Courts Service initially referred to "Her Royal Highness" Queen Elizabeth II but later corrected it.

<sup>25</sup> Royal Family, [Statement from The King following the death of The Queen](#), 8 September 2022.

## 1.1

## Reaction

The House of Commons had been due to sit at 09:30 on Friday 9 September. The Speaker announced on Thursday evening that the House would instead sit at 12:00 for tributes to Her late Majesty. The Prime Minister, Liz Truss, responded to the news of the Queen's death with a statement outside 10 Downing Street:

We are all devastated by the news we have just heard from Balmoral. The death of Her Majesty The Queen is a huge shock to the nation and to the world. Queen Elizabeth II was the rock on which modern Britain was built. Our country has grown and flourished under her reign [...] Today the Crown passes – as it is has done for more than a thousand years – to our new monarch, our new head of state: His Majesty King Charles III.

With the King's family, we mourn the loss of his mother. And as we mourn, we must come together as a people to support him. To help him bear the awesome responsibility that he now carries for us all. We offer him our loyalty and devotion just as his mother devoted so much to so many for so long. And with the passing of the second Elizabethan age, we usher in a new era in the magnificent history of our great country – exactly as Her Majesty would have wished – by saying the words God save the King.<sup>26</sup>

The Prime Minister's statement was the first public intimation of the new monarch's regnal name, Charles III. On previous occasions, this was first revealed at a new monarch's Accession Council.

News of The Queen's death was announced shortly before the audience arrived at the Royal Albert Hall for a scheduled BBC Proms concert by the Philadelphia Orchestra. It set aside its planned programme and instead performed "God Save the King" (the National Anthem) and some Elgar.<sup>27</sup>

Black cab drivers also lined The Mall in tribute.<sup>28</sup> Rail and postal strikes were called off<sup>29</sup> and numerous sporting events postponed or suspended until at least 11 September.<sup>30</sup> All Royal Residences were closed to the public until after The Queen's State Funeral.<sup>31</sup> US President Joe Biden ordered that the US flag be flown at half-staff at the White House and all public buildings until the day of The Queen's interment.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>26</sup> 10 Downing Street website, [Prime Minister's statement on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#), 8 September 2022.

<sup>27</sup> [The Philadelphia Orchestra was about to play Beethoven in London. Then the Queen died](#), Philadelphia Inquirer, 8 September 2022. The Orchestra's other two concerts were cancelled.

<sup>28</sup> [Capital's black cab drivers pay respects to the Queen, a 'London girl'](#), Independent, 8 September 2022.

<sup>29</sup> ["Strike action cancelled after the Queen's death"](#), BBC News online, 9 September 2022.

<sup>30</sup> [Sporting events after the Queen's death: Some cancelled, some to go ahead, but why?](#), Sky News website, 10 September 2022.

<sup>31</sup> Royal Family website, [Mourning and Condolence arrangements at the Royal Residences](#), 9 September 2022.

<sup>32</sup> The White House website, [A Proclamation on the Death of Queen Elizabeth II](#), 8 September 2022.

## 2

## Friday 9 September

Overall planning for the death of Queen Elizabeth II was known as “London Bridge”. Within that plan, the day of the monarch’s death was to be known as “D-day”, followed by D+1, 2, etc, up until the day of the State Funeral (D+10). As the news of The Queen’s death was announced at 18:30 on 8 September, the following day, Friday 9 September, was designated D-day.<sup>33</sup>

The King and The Queen Consort travelled from Balmoral to Buckingham Palace, where they greeted mourners outside the gates.<sup>34</sup> Church bells tolled at Westminster Abbey, St Paul’s Cathedral and other churches across the UK. At [Windsor Castle](#), the Sebastopol Bell tolled 96 times from 12:00 until 13:35, marking the 96 years of The Queen’s life.<sup>35</sup>

## 2.1

### House of Commons

Upon a Demise of the Crown, Parliament meets immediately pursuant to section 4 of the [Succession to the Crown Act 1707](#). Other than meetings of both Houses for tributes, agreement of Addresses and oath-taking, all other parliamentary business was postponed, including scheduled meetings of Select Committees, until after the State Funeral.<sup>36</sup>

The House of Commons met at 12:00. The Speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, invited the House to rise and observe a minute’s silence in memory of The Queen. This was led by the Chaplain to the Speaker.<sup>37</sup> For almost eleven hours, MPs paid tribute to the late sovereign, beginning with the Speaker. He was followed by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer, Sir Peter Bottomley (the Father of the House), Ian Blackford (Westminster leader of the SNP), Boris Johnson, Harriet Harman (Mother of the House), Theresa May, Sir Ed Davey (Liberal Democrat leader), Sir Iain Duncan Smith, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson (Democratic Unionist Party leader) and several other Members.<sup>38</sup> At the close of the debate, the Speaker said:

<sup>33</sup> See [‘London Bridge is down’: the secret plan for the days after the Queen’s death](#), Guardian, 17 March 2017.

<sup>34</sup> [King Charles III greets mourners at Buckingham Palace](#), BBC News online, 9 September 2022.

<sup>35</sup> [Sebastopol bell at Windsor tolls 96 times to mark Queen Elizabeth II’s life](#), Daily Telegraph, 9 September 2022.

<sup>36</sup> All Select Committee proceedings were suspended until two days after the State Funeral. This included planned evidence sessions, committee visits and publication of material. All parliamentary business at the Scottish Parliament was also suspended as a mark of respect.

<sup>37</sup> [HC Deb 9 September 2022 Vol 719 c491](#)

<sup>38</sup> [HC Deb 9 September 2022 Vol 719 cc493-652](#)

This is the House is at its best. United in grief, we are brought together with so many stories and memories in the moving tributes that have been paid. We have had 182 contributions and tributes today. A big thank you to you all, and a big thank you to the staff of the House, the police, the security, the catering and everybody involved—and especially the Clerks, who are in their fine wigs today. Thank you to you all for what you have done.<sup>39</sup>

## 2.2 House of Lords

The House of Lords also met at 12:00. After a minute's silence was observed, prayers were read by the Lord Bishop of Oxford. The Lord Speaker, Lord McFall of Alcluith, then spoke from the Woolsack:

Her late Majesty, whom we mourn today, was, for over 70 years, a loyal and steadfast presence in the national life of the United Kingdom. Her strong sense of public duty and her devotion to the welfare and happiness of her people served to bind our nation together during an epoch of unprecedented societal and technological change. Her unique record of public service, deep sense of faith and commitment to her role ensure that she will be regarded as a supreme example of a constitutional monarch.<sup>40</sup>

Tributes followed from Lord True, the Lord Privy Seal, Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour), Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat), Lord Judge (Cross Bench) and the Archbishop of Canterbury (Lord Spiritual).<sup>41</sup>

## 2.3 Audience

Earlier on Friday 9 September, The King held the first audience of his reign with the Prime Minister at Buckingham Palace.<sup>42</sup>

## 2.4 The King's address

Both Houses of Parliament briefly suspended their sittings shortly before 18:00 to hear the The King's address, which was broadcast in both Chambers and televised.<sup>43</sup> The King said:

I speak to you today with feelings of profound sorrow. Throughout her life, Her Majesty The Queen – my beloved Mother – was an inspiration and example to me and to all my family, and we owe her the most heartfelt debt any family can

---

<sup>39</sup> [HC Deb 9 September 2022 Vol 719 c652](#). The House was adjourned at 22:53.

<sup>40</sup> [HL Deb 9 September 2022 Vol 824 c367](#)

<sup>41</sup> [HL Deb 9 September 2022 Vol 824 c367-75](#)

<sup>42</sup> Court Circular, 9 September 2022.

<sup>43</sup> Both Houses then resumed for tributes. The Lords adjourned at 19:34.

owe to their mother; for her love, affection, guidance, understanding and example.

Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today.

Alongside the personal grief that all my family are feeling, we also share with so many of you in the United Kingdom, in all the countries where The Queen was Head of State, in the Commonwealth and across the world, a deep sense of gratitude for the more than 70 years in which my Mother, as Queen, served the people of so many nations [...]

As The Queen herself did with such unswerving devotion, I too now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the Constitutional principles at the heart of our nation.

And wherever you may live in the United Kingdom, or in the Realms and territories across the world, and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life [...]

On behalf of all my family, I can only offer the most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your condolences and support. They mean more to me than I can ever possibly express.

And to my darling Mama, as you begin your last great journey to join my dear late Papa, I want simply to say this: thank you. Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years. May 'flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest'.<sup>44</sup>

## 2.5 Service of Prayer and Reflection

The King's address was also broadcast at the beginning of a Service of Prayer and Reflection at St Paul's Cathedral. Two thousand members of the public attended alongside senior members of the Cabinet. The service was led by the Dean-Designate at St Paul's. There was a reading by the Prime Minister, an address from the Bishop of London and a blessing from the Archbishop of Canterbury. A lone piper played a lament, and "God Save the King" was sung formally for the first time.<sup>45</sup> The Service was broadcast live on BBC1.

## 2.6 The Prince of Wales

The King announced in his address that he was "proud" to create his eldest son and heir, William, the Duke of Cambridge, "Prince of Wales, Tywysog

---

<sup>44</sup> Royal Family website, [His Majesty The King's address to the Nation and the Commonwealth](#), 9 September 2022.

<sup>45</sup> See St Paul's Cathedral, [Order of Service](#), 9 September 2022.

Cymru, the country whose title I have been so greatly privileged to bear during so much of my life and duty”.<sup>46</sup>

The title is created separately via Letters Patent, usually some weeks (or even years) after the accession of a new monarch.<sup>47</sup> This creation was the fastest for an heir to the Throne since the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, something which provoked a political discussion in Wales.<sup>48</sup>

In 1911 and 1969 there was an investiture ceremony at [Caernarfon Castle](#) for the Prince of Wales, although this is not necessary.<sup>49</sup> So far, no plans for another investiture have been announced.

## 2.7 Royal and General Mourning

It was The King’s wish that a period of Royal Mourning be observed by the Royal Family and members of the Royal Household until seven days after the State Funeral.<sup>50</sup> The Duke of Norfolk (the Earl Marshal),<sup>51</sup> who had been received by The King earlier that day,<sup>52</sup> also issued instructions that all official flags,<sup>53</sup> including the Union Flag, were to be flown at half-mast until the end of the period of Royal Mourning. The only exception was when The King was present within a building or its precincts, at which time the Royal Standard was to be flown at full mast. The Royal Standard is never flown at half-mast as there is always a Sovereign.<sup>54</sup> Arrangements for flags in Northern Ireland are covered by statute and were published in The Gazette.<sup>55</sup>

The Earl Marshal also issued an Order for General (or National) Mourning.<sup>56</sup> The Cabinet Office published Guidance for the public and businesses during this period.<sup>57</sup>

---

<sup>46</sup> Royal Family website, [His Majesty The King’s address to the Nation and the Commonwealth](#).

<sup>47</sup> See [Prince William says he is honoured to be made Prince of Wales](#), Reuters, 11 September 2022. The Letters Patent have yet to be made publicly available.

<sup>48</sup> See Stephen Clear, [Prince of Wales: why William inheriting the title from Charles has sparked a debate](#), The Conversation website, 15 September 2022.

<sup>49</sup> See John S. Ellis, *Investiture: Royal Ceremony and National Identity in Wales, 1911-1969*, Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2008.

<sup>50</sup> Royal Family website, [Mourning and Condolence arrangements at the Royal Residences](#), 9 September 2022.

<sup>51</sup> The Earl Marshal is an hereditary role with responsibility for organising the accession and coronation of new monarchs (as well as State Funerals for former monarchs).

<sup>52</sup> Court Circular, 9 September 2022.

<sup>53</sup> Defined as Union Flags, the national flags of the home nations (Scotland, England and Wales), ensigns and ships’ colours.

<sup>54</sup> College of Arms website, [Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II: Flag Instructions](#), 9 September 2022.

<sup>55</sup> [The Gazette, 8 September 2022](#)

<sup>56</sup> College of Arms website, [General Mourning](#), 9 September 2022.

<sup>57</sup> See Cabinet Office, [The demise of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II: National Mourning Guidance](#), September 2022.

---

## 3 Saturday 10 September

### 3.1 Accession Council

The Accession Council took place at 10:00 on Saturday 10 September in the State Apartments at [St James's Palace](#). This gathering of Privy Counsellors (and others) is no longer required to meet by law, although by custom it does so soon after a Demise of the Crown to transact some essential business.

The [Privy Council Office](#) (PCO) was responsible for “summonsing” (inviting) those entitled to attend Parts I and II of the Accession Council. In addition to selected Privy Counsellors, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London and Commonwealth Realm High Commissioners attended Part I (200 in all). In a break with tradition, not all Privy Counsellors (700+) were invited to Parts I and II. Instead, 177 were summonsed to attend either ex-officio or having won a place in a ballot.<sup>58</sup> There is no constitutional requirement that all Privy Councillors be invited to – or attend – the Accession Council. Proceedings were broadcast for the first time.<sup>59</sup>

### 3.2 Accession Proclamation

The King was not present at Part I. Penny Mordaunt, the Acting Lord President,<sup>60</sup> began by stating it was her “sad duty” to inform the “Lords of the Council” (Privy Counsellors) of the death of “Her most gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II”. She then called on the Clerk of the (Privy) Council, Richard Tilbrook, to read aloud the text of the Accession Proclamation:

---

<sup>58</sup> Several new Cabinet ministers (and some officials) had to be sworn (become members) of the Privy Council on the evening of 7 September, but as this meeting was cancelled they were present at the Accession Council without being Privy Counsellors. Although Part I has a broader attendance, usually only Privy Counsellors can attend Part II (see **Section 6.4**).

<sup>59</sup> See Sky News website, [In full: King's Accession ceremony](#), 10 September 2022. See also David Allen Green, [Why the broadcast of the Accession Council was informative and significant](#), 12 September 2022.

<sup>60</sup> [What happens this weekend as Charles proclaimed King after Queen's death](#), Independent, 10 September 2022. Mordaunt had been appointed Lord President but not yet “declared” during a meeting of the “King in Council” (the Privy Council). An Acting Lord President need only be a Privy Counsellor, although the Lord President Mordaunt was apparently acting for, Mark Spencer, was also present at the Accession Council.

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whose Decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George:

We, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm and Members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty's Privy Council and representatives of the Realms and Territories, Aldermen and Citizens of London, and others, do now hereby with one voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord Charles the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom we do acknowledge all Faith and Obedience with humble Affection; beseeching God by whom Kings and Queens do reign to bless His Majesty with long and happy Years to reign over us. GOD SAVE THE KING.<sup>61</sup>

The Acting Lord President then invited those present on the platform (many of whom wore black armbands) to sign the Proclamation.

There were several textual differences between the 2022 Proclamation and that for Queen Elizabeth II in February 1952. "Members of the House of Commons" was added after "Lords Spiritual and Temporal", and "representatives of the Realms and Territories" substituted for "representatives of other Members of the Commonwealth". The phrase "other Principal Gentlemen of Quality" was omitted, as was mention of the Lord Mayor of London. The phrase "High and Mighty", which once preceded the new monarch's name, was also absent.

### 3.3

## Orders of Council

[Eight Orders of Council](#) were then passed.<sup>62</sup> These ordered the printing of the Accession Proclamation in special supplements of The London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes; that the Lord Chancellor affix the Great Seal to the Proclamation;<sup>63</sup> and that several officials make arrangements for public

---

<sup>61</sup> College of Arms website, [The Accession Proclamation](#), 10 September 2022. The original published version ended with "Given at St. James's Palace this Tenth day of September in the year of Our Lord Twenty thousand and twenty-two". The year was later corrected to "Two thousand and twenty-two".

<sup>62</sup> Orders **of** Council can be made by Privy Counsellors; Orders **in** Council require the approval of the monarch "in Council".

<sup>63</sup> The Lord Chancellor had not yet received the Great Seal from The King.

readings of the Accession Proclamation at locations around the United Kingdom.

A deputation consisting of Her Majesty The Queen Consort, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Archbishop of York, the Prime Minister, the Clerk of the Council and the Acting Lord President then waited on The King and informed him that the (Privy) Council was assembled.

## 3.4 The King's Declaration

On joining the proceedings – The King's first Privy Council meeting – His Majesty delivered a non-statutory personal Declaration:

My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen. It is my most sorrowful duty to announce to you the death of my beloved Mother, The Queen.

I know how deeply you, the entire Nation – and I think I may say the whole world – sympathise with me in the irreparable loss we have all suffered. It is the greatest consolation to me to know of the sympathy expressed by so many to my Sister and Brothers and that such overwhelming affection and support should be extended to our whole family in our loss.

To all of us as a family, as to this kingdom and the wider family of nations of which it is a part, my Mother gave an example of lifelong love and of selfless service. My Mother's reign was unequalled in its duration, its dedication and its devotion. Even as we grieve, we give thanks for this most faithful life.

I am deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of Sovereignty which have now passed to me. In taking up these responsibilities, I shall strive to follow the inspiring example I have been set in upholding constitutional government and to seek the peace, harmony and prosperity of the peoples of these Islands and of the Commonwealth Realms and Territories throughout the world.

In this purpose, I know that I shall be upheld by the affection and loyalty of the peoples whose Sovereign I have been called upon to be, and that in the discharge of these duties I will be guided by the counsel of their elected parliaments. In all this, I am profoundly encouraged by the constant support of my beloved wife.

I take this opportunity to confirm my willingness and intention to continue the tradition of surrendering the hereditary revenues, including the Crown Estate, to My Government for the benefit of all, in return for the Sovereign Grant, which supports My official duties as Head of State and Head of Nation.

And in carrying out the heavy task that has been laid upon me, and to which I now dedicate what remains to me of my life, I pray for the guidance and help of Almighty God.<sup>64</sup>

---

<sup>64</sup> Royal Family website, [His Majesty The King's Declaration](#), 10 September 2022.

## 3.5

### The King's Scottish Oath

Under the terms of the 1707 Anglo-Scottish Union, The King was then required to take and subscribe the Oath relating to the “Security” of the Church of Scotland.<sup>65</sup> The King said:

I, Charles the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of My other Realms and Territories, King, Defender of the Faith, do faithfully promise and swear that I shall inviolably maintain and preserve the Settlement of the true Protestant Religion as established by the Laws made in Scotland in prosecution of the Claim of Right and particularly by an Act intituled “An Act for securing the Protestant Religion and Presbyterian Church Government” and by the Acts passed in the Parliament of both Kingdoms for Union of the two Kingdoms, together with the Government, Worship, Discipline, Rights and Privileges of the Church of Scotland. So help me God.

The King then signed two identical documents recording the taking of the Oath. This was witnessed by The Queen Consort, The Prince of Wales, the Lord Chancellor, the [Secretary of State for Scotland](#), the [First Minister of Scotland](#), the Lord Advocate, the [Advocate General for Scotland](#) and the Lord President of the Court of Session.<sup>66</sup>



The King at his Accession Council: Contains information licensed under the Scottish Parliament Copyright Licence

<sup>65</sup> This is required, but the text as opposed to the content is not specified by [Article XXV\(II\)](#) of the [Union with Scotland Act 1706](#). This has been taken by every new monarch upon their accession since that of [King George I](#) in 1714. For more on the relationship between church and state see Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8886, [The relationship between church and state in the United Kingdom](#).

<sup>66</sup> These were subsequently sent to the Court of Session in Edinburgh and the Privy Council Office in London. A copy was sent to the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

## 3.6 Orders in Council

The King in Council's first business were [12 Prerogative Orders in Council](#).<sup>67</sup> These authorised publication of the King's personal Declaration; the "transmission" of the two signed copies of the Scottish Oath to the Court of Session in Edinburgh and the Privy Council Office in London; the form of Proclamation for proclaiming King Charles III in the British Overseas Territories; and authorising the Lord Chancellor, Lord Privy Seal, Principal Secretaries of State, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales to make use of their respective Seals until replacements were prepared and authorised by The King.

## 3.7 The Sovereign Grant

The [Sovereign Grant Act 2011](#) makes provision for the payment of a Sovereign Grant to the Sovereign each financial year.<sup>68</sup> This provides resources to the Royal Household in support of The King's official duties. Certain provisions of the Act cease to have effect six months after the death of a monarch unless alternative provision is made by an Order in Council within six months of the new reign.

The King's first Statutory Order in Council therefore provided that the Sovereign Grant provisions would expire six months after the end of the present reign.<sup>69</sup> It was the first time Royal finances had formed part of an Accession Council.

## 3.8 Proclamations

The Accession Council's final items of business were [Two Bank Holiday Proclamations and Sealing Orders](#) appointing Monday 19 September a bank holiday in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and, separately, in Scotland.<sup>70</sup> The State Funeral of King George VI had not been a bank holiday.

The first Proclamation (for England, Wales and Northern Ireland) marked "the passing of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second" and the second (for

---

<sup>67</sup> Prerogative Orders in Council do not require Parliamentary consent.

<sup>68</sup> The [Civil List](#) previously provided funding to support the official duties of the sovereign and was specific to a particular reign.

<sup>69</sup> [The Sovereign Grant Act 2011 \(Duration of Sovereign Grant Provisions\) Order 2022](#)

<sup>70</sup> See [section 1\(3\)](#) of the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971. The Proclamations did not initially specify a date for the bank holidays, although [this was announced later that day](#). The Sealing Orders instructed the Lord Chancellor to affix the Great Seal to the Proclamations, although he did not receive this from The King until the evening of Tuesday 13 September.

Scotland) the passing “of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth”. This acknowledged a long-standing convention that Queen Elizabeth II be known as “Queen Elizabeth” in Scotland.<sup>71</sup>

This concluded the business of the Accession Council. Remaining Privy Counsellors signed the Accession Proclamation as they departed St James’s Palace.<sup>72</sup>

## 3.9 Principal Proclamation

The conclusion of the Accession Council was followed by the Principal Proclamation, which was read at 11:00 from the balcony overlooking Friary Court at St James’s Palace. The Proclamation was read by [Garter King of Arms](#), David White, accompanied by the Earl Marshal, other Officers of Arms and the Serjeants at Arms. This was the first public reading of the Accession Proclamation. It was also marked by the firing of two Gun Salutes, 41 by The King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery in Hyde Park and a Royal Salute of 62 Guns by the Honourable Artillery Company at the Tower of London.<sup>73</sup>

In recognition of the new Sovereign, flags were flown at full mast from the time of the Principal Proclamation at St James’s Palace until one hour after the Proclamations in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales on Sunday 11 September, after which flags returned to half-mast in mourning for the death of Her late Majesty.

### Royal Exchange

The “City Proclamation” was then made at 12:00 from the steps of the [Royal Exchange](#) in the City of London by Timothy Duke, Clarenceux King of Arms. He processed from the Mansion House accompanied by the other Heralds (except Garter King of Arms), the Lord Mayor and other City office holders. State Trumpeters were present, four posted with the party at the Royal Exchange and four on the Mansion House balcony to echo their calls.<sup>74</sup>

After the Proclamation ceremonies, The King again greeted crowds outside Buckingham Palace.<sup>75</sup>

---

<sup>71</sup> This was on account of there having been no Elizabeth I in Scotland. A single Proclamation could have appointed 19 September a bank holiday across the whole of the United Kingdom.

<sup>72</sup> The Privy Council Office later published a list of [Attendees at the Accession Council](#) in alphabetical order.

<sup>73</sup> College of Arms website, [Accession Proclamation](#), 10 September 2022. There were also 21-gun salutes at Cardiff Castle, Edinburgh Castle, Castle Cornet (Gibraltar), naval bases and ships at sea to coincide with the Principal Proclamation at 11:00.

<sup>74</sup> College of Arms website, [Accession Proclamation](#). Until 1952 there were two additional London proclamations, one at Charing Cross and the other at Temple Bar. The latter involved asking “permission” to enter the City.

<sup>75</sup> [Charles III greets crowds after proclamation ceremony](#), BBC News online, 10 September 2022.

## 3.10

# House of Commons

The House of Commons met at 13:00 on Saturday 10 September. The Speaker said that:

Following the meeting of the Accession Council and the Principal Proclamation earlier today, I will first take the Oath to His Majesty. Time constraints mean only a small number of hon. Members are able to take the Oath or make the Affirmation today [...] There will be further opportunities for all hon. Members to take the Oath or make the Affirmation following Her late Majesty's funeral. There is no procedural requirement to do so.<sup>76</sup>

The Speaker took his Parliamentary Oath first,<sup>77</sup> followed by the Father of the House, Sir Peter Bottomley, Harriet Harman, the Mother of the House, the Prime Minister and several other Members according to seniority.<sup>78</sup>

MPs then resumed their tributes to Queen Elizabeth II,<sup>79</sup> later resolving *nemine contradicente* (without dissent) that:

an humble Address be presented to His Majesty to convey to His Majesty the deep sympathy felt by this House for the great sorrow which he has sustained by the death of the late Queen, His Majesty's mother; to extend to all the Royal Family the deep sympathy of this House in their grief, which is shared by all its Members; to assure His Majesty that Her late Majesty's unstinting dedication over a reign of over seventy years to the service of our great country and its people, and to the service of the countries and peoples of the rest of the wider Commonwealth, will always be held in affectionate and grateful remembrance; and to express to His Majesty our loyalty to him and our conviction that he will strive to uphold the liberties and to promote the happiness of the people in all his realms now and in the years to come.<sup>80</sup>

The Leader of the House and Acting Lord President, Penny Mordaunt, moved that this humble Address be presented to His Majesty by the whole House.<sup>81</sup>

The House of Commons adjourned at 20:33.

## 3.11

# House of Lords

The House of Lords also met at 13:00 for Members to swear or affirm their Parliamentary Oath. Although this was not a legal requirement, under House of Lords Standing Orders it was:

---

<sup>76</sup> [HC Deb 10 September 2022 Vol 719 c653](#)

<sup>77</sup> See Commons Library briefing paper CBP7515, [The Parliamentary Oath](#).

<sup>78</sup> [HC Deb 10 September 2022 Vol 719 c654](#). All remaining Members were to have an opportunity to take the oath when the Commons resumed after the State Funeral.

<sup>79</sup> [HC Deb 10 September 2022 Vol 719 c655-765](#). There was a total of 321 tributes from MPs.

<sup>80</sup> [HC Deb 10 September 2022 Vol 719 c766](#)

<sup>81</sup> [HC Deb 10 September 2022 Vol 719 c766](#)

necessary to take the oath to the new King before taking part in any parliamentary business, including the first sitting of the House after the State Funeral, committee meetings, tabling of questions and amendments.<sup>82</sup>

Beginning at 13:05, several peers (in order of seniority) took the Oath of Allegiance. At 18:30 Lord True, the Lord Privy Seal, moved:

That an Humble Address be presented to His Majesty to convey to His Majesty the deep sympathy felt by this House in the grief His Majesty has sustained by the death of our late beloved Queen, His Majesty's Mother, of blessed and glorious memory;

To extend to all the Royal Family the deep sympathy of this House in their grief, which is shared by all its Members;

To assure His Majesty that the example of selfless public service which our late Sovereign displayed over Her reign of 70 years, Her untiring endeavours for the welfare of Her peoples and Her fortitude in adversity will ever be held in reverent, affectionate, and grateful remembrance; and

To express to His Majesty our loyalty to His Majesty's Royal Person, and our firm conviction that, under the blessing of Divine Providence, His Majesty will, throughout His Reign, further the happiness and protect the liberties of all His peoples in all His Realms.<sup>83</sup>

This motion was agreed nemine dissentiente (without disagreement).

Between 18:44 and adjournment of the House at 19:29, several more peers took the oath or made the solemn affirmation.

## 3.12

## Audiences

In the afternoon, Buckingham Palace [announced that Queen Elizabeth II's State Funeral would be held on Monday 19 September](#).<sup>84</sup> The King also held several audiences at Buckingham Palace:

- The Archbishop of Canterbury (accompanied by The Queen Consort);
- Liz Truss (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury);
- The following members of the Cabinet: Kwasi Kwarteng (Chancellor), James Cleverly (Foreign Secretary), Thérèse Coffey (Deputy Prime Minister), Sue-Ellen Braverman (Home Secretary), Ben Wallace (Defence Secretary), Brandon Lewis (Lord Chancellor), Nadhim Zahawi (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), Penny Mordaunt (Acting Lord

---

<sup>82</sup> This stipulation had not included tributes on Friday 9 September. Members were not required to bring a writ of summons to take the Oath.

<sup>83</sup> [HL Deb 10 September 2022 Vol 824 c532](#)

<sup>84</sup> The Liberal Democrats cancelled their autumn conference as the State Funeral would have taken place half-way through their annual gathering (See Liberal Democrats website, [Conference Cancellation Information](#)).

President and Leader of the House of Commons) and Lord True (Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords);

- Sir Keir Starmer (Leader of His Majesty’s Opposition), Sir Edward Davey MP (Leader of the Liberal Democrats) and Ian Blackford MP (Leader of the Scottish National Party);
- The [Dean of Westminster](#) (the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle).

## 3.13

## Canada

Following the Accession Council in London, the Canadian Prime Minister (Justin Trudeau) and Governor-General (Mary Simon) signed a Proclamation proclaiming the new King of Canada following a Cabinet meeting. Canada’s chief herald proclaimed King Charles III in English and in French.<sup>85</sup> The ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa ended with a 21-gun salute and the armed forces band playing “God Save the King”. The Canadian Proclamation was published in English and French in an extra edition (or *Édition spéciale*) of the *Canada Gazette*.<sup>86</sup> The Lieutenant Governors of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan issued their Proclamations the same day.<sup>87</sup>



Attribution: Accession of King Charles in Canada by MCpl Anis Assari, Rideau Hall, Office of the Secretary to the Governor-General of Canada

<sup>85</sup> These ended “Long Live the King” and “Vive le roi” respectively. A 21-gun salute by the Royal Canadian Armed Forces was accidentally set off before the French version was read out.

<sup>86</sup> [Canada Gazette Vol 156, No 4, 10 September 2022](#)

<sup>87</sup> The Lieutenant Governors of Ontario and Prince Edward Island issued their Proclamations on 12 September, of Manitoba on 14 September, and of Alberta on 15 September.

## 4

## Sunday 11 September

On the morning of Sunday 11 September, the Coffin bearing Queen Elizabeth II – draped with the Scottish version of the [Royal Standard](#)<sup>88</sup> – was conveyed by road from Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire to the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. It was followed by The Princess Royal, accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence.<sup>89</sup> There were designated viewing locations at Ballater, Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh.<sup>90</sup> After a six-hour, 175-mile journey, the Coffin reached Edinburgh at around 16:20.<sup>91</sup>

According to media reports, the plan should The Queen die in Scotland was known as “Operation Unicorn”.<sup>92</sup>

## 4.1

### Proclamations in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast

Following the Principal Proclamation at St James’s Palace in London on Saturday 10 September, three “national” Proclamations were made in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast at 12:00 on Sunday 11 September.

#### Edinburgh

The King’s Body Guard for Scotland ([The Royal Company of Archers](#)) and the Guard of Honour marched from the Castle Esplanade to the [Mercat Cross](#) where [Lord Lyon King of Arms](#), Joseph Morrow,<sup>93</sup> made the first Proclamation “to the people of Edinburgh”. This was followed by a 21-gun salute from Edinburgh Castle, at which the Proclamation was made a second time (on the Castle Drawbridge at 12:30) “to the people of Scotland”.<sup>94</sup> A few of those

<sup>88</sup> Instead of two English quarterings, there are two Scottish (the Lion Rampant).

<sup>89</sup> An article published in 2017 had anticipated “[an initial wave of Scottish ritual](#)” should The Queen die at Balmoral.

<sup>90</sup> Scottish Government press release, [Her Majesty The Queen](#), 10 September 2022

<sup>91</sup> In Aberdeenshire, [farmers formed a guard of honour using tractors](#).

<sup>92</sup> This was confirmed in a [tweet from the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon](#).

<sup>93</sup> The Lord Lyon had attended Part I of the Accession Council the previous day. He could not attend Part II as he was not a Privy Counsellor.

<sup>94</sup> College of Arms website, [Accession Proclamation](#). See also Scottish Government press release, [Accession of the King](#), 10 September 2022. Until 1952 there were four Proclamations in Edinburgh, the others being at the Palace of Holyroodhouse and at the Shore of Leith. On 12 September, the Proclamation was read out [in Stornoway in both English and Scottish Gaelic](#).

present protested against the monarchy and booed as Morrow spoke. One woman was arrested.<sup>95</sup>



Edinburgh Proclamation: Contains information licensed under the Scottish Parliament Copyright Licence

## Cardiff

At 11:25 a Proclamation Guard made up of 26 men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Royal Welsh, supported by the Band of the Royal Welsh and accompanied by the regimental mascot, marched from City Hall along Boulevard de Nantes, North Road and Duke Street to Cardiff Castle.

The Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Morfudd Meredith, and Wales Herald of Arms Extraordinary, Thomas Lloyd, made the “Proclamation for Wales” in Welsh and English at 12:00. They did so from a dais in the grounds of Cardiff Castle.<sup>96</sup> The Welsh Proclamation was as follows:

FFURF AR BROCLAMASIWN AR GYFER DATGAN Y SOFRAN NEWYDD YN Y DEYRNAS UNEDIG

Gan ei bod wedi rhyngu bodd i Dduw Hollalluog i alw i’w Ofal ein diweddar Sofran, yr Arglwyddes Frenhines Elizabeth yr Ail, o Fendigaid a Gogoneddus Goffadwriaeth, y mae Coron Teyrnas Unedig Prydain Fawr a Gogledd Iwerddon, oblegid ei Hymadawiad, wedi dod yn gwbl ac yn gyfiawn i ran y Tywysog Charles Philip Arthur George: Yr ydym ninnau, felly, Arglwyddi Ysbrydol a Thymhorol y Deyrnas hon ac Aelodau o Dŷ’r Cyffredin, ynghyd ag aelodau eraill o Gyfrin Gyngor Ei diweddar Fawrhydi, cynrychiolwyr y Teyrnasoedd a’r Tiriogaethau, Henaduriaid a Dinasyddion Llundain, ac eraill, yn awr yn datgan ac yn cyhoeddi drwy hyn yn unllais ac o Galon a Thafod unfryd fod y Tywysog

<sup>95</sup> [SNP MP insists ‘republican views are as valid as any other’ after protesters arrested in Edinburgh](#), Daily Record, 13 September 2022.

<sup>96</sup> College of Arms website, [Accession Proclamation](#).

Charles Philip Arthur George, bellach, oblegid Marwolaeth ein diweddar Sofran o Serchus Goffadwriaeth, wedi dod inni yn unig gyfreithlon a chyfiawn Ddyledog Arglwydd Charles y Trydydd, drwy Ras Duw, ar Deyrnas Unedig Prydain Fawr a Gogledd Iwerddon a'i Deyrnasoedd eraill, yn Frenin, yn Ben ar y Gymanwlad, yn Amddiffynnwr y Ffydd, i'r hwn yr ydym yn datgan, ag Anwylserch gostyngedig, ein holl Ffydd a'n Hufudd-dod; gan atolwg ar i Dduw, drwy'r hwn y mae Brenhinoedd a Breninesau yn teyrnasu, fendithio Ei Fawrhydi â hir Oes hapus i deyrnasu drosom.

Rhoddwyd ym Mhalas St. James y degfed dydd o fis Medi ym mlwyddyn Ein Harglwydd dwy fil a dwy ar hugain.

DUW A GADWO'R BRENIN<sup>97</sup>

The ceremony – the first “national” Proclamation for a new monarch in Wales – was followed by a 21-gun salute by members of 104<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Newport) of the Royal Artillery and the singing of “God Save the King” and “Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau” (Land of my fathers).<sup>98</sup>

## Belfast

Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, Robert Noel, made the Northern Ireland Proclamation at the State Entrance to Hillsborough Castle. Present were representatives of civil and military establishments in Northern Ireland.<sup>99</sup> In attendance were the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Democratic Unionist Party leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson and Alliance leader Naomi Long. Sinn Féin representatives did not attend.<sup>100</sup>

## Other Proclamations

According to custom, the Accession Proclamation was also read out in suitable locations by High Sheriffs, Lord Mayors, Mayors and others in England and Wales, by Sheriffs, Lord Provosts and Provosts in Scotland, and by Lord Mayors and Mayors in Northern Ireland.<sup>101</sup> By tradition, a reading took place close to the statue of Queen Victoria in Windsor at 12:30.<sup>102</sup>

## 4.2

## British Overseas Territories

The Form of Proclamation for the British Overseas Territories had been set out in an Order in Council approved at the Accession Council. This closely resembled the text of the UK Proclamation. The respective Governors of the

---

<sup>97</sup> Welsh Government, [FFURF AR BROCLAMASIWN AR GYFER DATGAN Y SOFRAN NEWYDD YN Y DEYRNAS UNEDIG](#).

<sup>98</sup> In 1952 there were local (but not national) Proclamations in English and Welsh.

<sup>99</sup> College of Arms website, [Accession Proclamation](#).

<sup>100</sup> [Proclamations of the King read in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast](#), Guardian, 11 September 2022.

<sup>101</sup> College of Arms website, [Accession Proclamation](#).

<sup>102</sup> Until 1952, there had been three readings of the Accession Proclamation in Windsor.

Overseas Territories read their Proclamations on 11 September.<sup>103</sup> Some were accompanied by 21-gun salutes and a march past.<sup>104</sup>

## 4.3 Crown Dependencies

The Crown Dependencies are not part of the UK but are self-governing dependencies of the Crown.<sup>105</sup>

### Bailiwick of Guernsey

The Proclamation in the Bailiwick of Guernsey was held in Guernsey, Alderney and Sark at 12:00. In Guernsey, a special sitting of the States of Guernsey was held at 11:00, at which the Bailiff read out the Proclamation. The Sheriff of Guernsey read the Proclamation publicly an hour later, to which those in attendance shouted: “Dieu Sauve Le Roi” (God Save the King).<sup>106</sup>

### Bailiwick of Jersey

The Proclamation was received by the Jersey States Assembly, after which the Bailiff of Jersey delivered a speech in the Royal Square and then read out the Proclamation.<sup>107</sup>

### Isle of Man

The Proclamation on the Isle of Man differed in that it included a local title for the first time.<sup>108</sup> During a ceremony at Government House in Onchan, Lieutenant Governor General Sir John Lorimer proclaimed The King:

Charles III by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of his other realms and territories King, **Lord of Mann**, head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom we do acknowledge all faith and constant obedience [...] God save the King, **Lord of Mann**.<sup>109</sup>

---

<sup>103</sup> See Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP9583, [The UK Overseas Territories and their Governors](#).

<sup>104</sup> The Proclamation in Pitcairn Islands, one of the smallest Overseas Territories, was [read out by Governor Iona Thomas via a video link from Wellington](#). Only the Commissioner of the [British Indian Ocean Territory](#) does not appear to have proclaimed King Charles III.

<sup>105</sup> See Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP8611, [The Crown Dependencies](#).

<sup>106</sup> [King Charles III: Bailiwick of Guernsey proclamation takes place](#), BBC News online, 11 September 2022.

<sup>107</sup> [Charles III formally proclaimed King in Jersey](#), Jersey Evening Post, 11 September 2022.

<sup>108</sup> See [The Proclamation of Charles III](#), Edge Law blog, 24 September 2022. For the texts of previous Isle of Man proclamations see Office of the Clerk of Tynwald, [Proclaiming the new monarch in the Isle of Man, 1765-1952](#), 14 September 2022.

<sup>109</sup> [Proclamation of the Lord of Mann at St. John's](#), 16 September 2022. A second Proclamation took place on Tynwald Hill in St John's on 16 September, [this time in English and in Manx Gaelic](#).

## 4.4

# Commonwealth Realm Proclamations

Accession Proclamations were also made in several Commonwealth Realms:

## Australia

At Government House in Canberra the Prime Minister of Australia and the [Federal Executive Council](#) recommended the Proclamation of King Charles III be made. The Proclamation was read by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia at 12:00 at Australian Parliament House.<sup>110</sup>

Similar Proclamations took place the same day in all the States of Australia except Victoria (its Proclamation was issued on Monday 12 September), reflecting each State's distinct relationship with the Crown.

## New Zealand

The New Zealand Cabinet and [Executive Council](#) met at 11:30. The Proclamation of Accession ceremony was held on the steps of Parliament at 12:30. New Zealand Herald of Arms Phillip O'Shea read the proclamation in English while the Parliamentary kaumātua (a tribal elder) Kura Moeahu read it in Māori. The latter ended with the exhortation: "E te atua tohungia te Kīngi!"<sup>111</sup>

The Commonwealth Realm of The Bahamas also made its Proclamation of King Charles III in Parliament Square.<sup>112</sup>

## 4.5

# Audiences

The King received Baroness Scotland of Asthal (the [Commonwealth Secretary-General](#)) at Buckingham Palace. The King and The Queen Consort afterwards gave a reception at Buckingham Palace for Commonwealth Realm High Commissioners. The Dean of Windsor (the Right Reverend David Conner) was also received by His Majesty. In the morning, The Prince of Wales held a meeting with Mark Drakeford, the First Minister of Wales, by telephone.<sup>113</sup>

---

<sup>110</sup> Australian Government website, [Proclamation](#), 11 September 2022.

<sup>111</sup> [King Charles III officially proclaimed as New Zealand's new king](#), RNZ website, 12 September 2022.

<sup>112</sup> [Proclamation of the Accession of His Majesty King Charles III is delivered in an official ceremony in Parliament Square](#), BIS Press Agency, 12 September 2022.

<sup>113</sup> Royal Family website, [The King's Audiences](#).

## 4.6

### The Senedd

The Senedd (Welsh Parliament) met in special session at 15:00 to pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. A minute's silence was held, after which a motion of condolence proposed:

That this Senedd expresses its deep sadness at the death of Her Majesty The Queen and offers its sincere condolences to His Majesty The King and other Members of the Royal Family. We recognise Her Majesty's enduring commitment to public service and duty, including her support for many Welsh charities and organisations, and her lifelong association with Wales and its people.

The Llywydd (Presiding Officer) called on the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, to lead the Senedd's tributes:

We offer our sincerest sympathies to the new King and his family. Our thoughts are with the new Prince and Princess of Wales. We wish them every success in this new chapter in their lives of service. In Welsh, there is a proverb: colli tad, colli cyngor; colli mam, colli angor—to lose a father is to lose advice; to lose a mother is to lose an anchor. We wish them strength to grieve in their loss, and we send them and their family our best wishes for the future [...] We have assembled here following this morning's proclamation ceremony, the first for more than 70 years here in Wales. It reminds us that, even as we look back, we must look forward and use the strength we have here in this democratic forum of Wales to fashion that future, by drawing inspiration from those who have helped to make us what we are.<sup>114</sup>

Andrew R.T. Davies, the leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Adam Price, leader of Plaid Cymru, Jane Dodds, leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, and several other MSs also paid tribute. The motion was deemed agreed.

## 4.7

### St Margaret's Church, London

The Speaker and Lord Speaker invited MPs, their staff, staff from both Houses of Parliament and colleagues from across the parliamentary community to evensong at St Margaret's Church at 6pm. This provided "an opportunity to pause for a moment of reflection" on the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

## 4.8

### Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh

The Queen's Coffin rested in the [Throne Room](#) of the Palace of Holyroodhouse overnight.

---

<sup>114</sup> [Senedd Record, 11 September 2022](#)

## 5

# Monday 12 September

### 5.1

## Presentation of Addresses

The King and The Queen Consort attended [Westminster Hall](#) on the morning of Monday 12 September to receive Addresses from both Houses of Parliament.<sup>115</sup> The King and Queen were received upon arrival by the Lord Great Chamberlain (Lord Carrington).<sup>116</sup>

The Lord Speaker (Lord McFall of Alcluith) read and then presented an Address from the House of Lords to The King:

Your Majesty, on behalf of all the members of the House of Lords I pledge my loyalty to You, and wish You, and Her Majesty the Queen Consort, well in the life of service to which You have dedicated yourself. We are proud and humbled to welcome you as our King, and we look forward to welcoming You on many more occasions to Parliament, and to this Hall, in the years ahead.<sup>117</sup>

Afterwards the Speaker of the House of Commons (Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP) read and subsequently presented an Address from the House of Commons to His Majesty:

We know you hold in the greatest respect the precious traditions, freedoms and responsibilities of our unique history and our system of parliamentary government. We know that You will bear those responsibilities which fall to You with the fortitude and dignity demonstrated by Her late Majesty. When the House met after the Accession Council yesterday my first, symbolic, Act was to make the oath to be faithful and bear true allegiance to Your Majesty, King Charles.<sup>118</sup>

This was the first time a new monarch had received Addresses of condolence and loyalty in person.<sup>119</sup> Having received the Addresses, The King made the following reply:

---

<sup>115</sup> The dress code for gentlemen was morning dress or a dark suit and the “equivalent” for ladies.

<sup>116</sup> [The office of Lord Great Chamberlain is hereditary and alternates by reign between the heirs of certain families](#). As the position was held by the Marquess of Cholmondeley for the duration of Queen Elizabeth II’s reign, it then passed down the Carrington line. The appointment of the Lord Great Chamberlain is not determined by the House of Lords Administration.

<sup>117</sup> UK Parliament website, [House of Lords presents Address to His Majesty King Charles III](#), 12 September 2022.

<sup>118</sup> UK Parliament website, [House of Commons presents Address to His Majesty King Charles III](#), 12 September 2022.

<sup>119</sup> Queen Elizabeth II had received Addresses marking her Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees in Westminster Hall in, respectively, 1977, 2002 and 2012.

As I stand before you today, I cannot help but feel the weight of history which surrounds us and which reminds us of the vital Parliamentary traditions to which Members of both Houses dedicate yourselves, with such personal commitment for the betterment of us all.

Parliament is the living and breathing instrument of our democracy. That your traditions are ancient we see in the construction of this great Hall and the reminders of Mediaeval predecessors of the Office to which I have been called. And the tangible connections to my darling late mother we see all around us; from the Fountain in New Palace Yard which commemorates The late Queen's Silver Jubilee to the Sundial in Old Palace Yard for the Golden Jubilee, the magnificent Stained Glass Window before me for the Diamond Jubilee and, so poignantly and yet to be formally unveiled, your most generous gift to Her late Majesty to mark the unprecedented Platinum Jubilee which we celebrated only three months ago, with such joyful hearts [...]

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

We gather today in remembrance of the remarkable span of The Queen's dedicated service to her nations and peoples. While very young, Her late Majesty pledged herself to serve her country and her people and to maintain the precious principles of constitutional government which lie at the heart of our nation. This vow she kept with unsurpassed devotion.

She set an example of selfless duty which, with God's help and your counsels, I am resolved faithfully to follow.<sup>120</sup>



The King replies to Addresses from both Houses of Parliament ©UK Parliament/Roger Harris

<sup>120</sup> Royal Family website, [His Majesty The King's reply to addresses of condolence at Westminster Hall](#), 12 September 2022.

## 5.2 House of Lords

The House of Lords met at 12:00 (the Commons did not). The Lord Speaker informed the House that he had:

received a great many letters of condolence on the occasion of the death of Her late Majesty the Queen, from our friends and colleagues in other Parliaments and countries across the globe. With the permission of the House, I will respond appropriately on the House's behalf and also arrange for the original letters to be published on the parliamentary website after the period of mourning.<sup>121</sup>

Several peers then took the oath or made the solemn affirmation. The House adjourned at 16:00.

## 5.3 Proclamations

The Commonwealth Realms of Grenada and the Solomon Islands Proclaimed King Charles III.<sup>122</sup>

## 5.4 Northern Ireland Assembly

The [Northern Ireland Assembly](#) is not currently fully functioning. In appropriate circumstances, however, the Speaker (Alex Maskey) can choose to mark certain events in the Assembly Chamber.<sup>123</sup> These are considered “events” rather than sittings of the Assembly and do not constitute formal proceedings.<sup>124</sup>

Following the death of The Queen, the Assembly Speaker wanted to ensure that Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) had an opportunity to pay their respects. He therefore gathered MLAs in the Assembly Chamber at Stormont on Monday 11 September 2022 for an event to express condolences. Representatives of both communities spoke in praise of Queen Elizabeth II.<sup>125</sup>

---

<sup>121</sup> [HL Deb 12 September 2022 Vol 824 c535](#). Until 1952, such messages were read out in full in each House.

<sup>122</sup> [King Charles III Officially Declared Head of State of Solomon Islands](#), Solomon Times, 13 September 2022.

<sup>123</sup> For example, tributes to Martin McGuinness, a former deputy First Minister, and to Lord Trimble, a former First Minister.

<sup>124</sup> They are not, therefore, recorded in the Assembly's Official Report.

<sup>125</sup> BBC News online, [Queen Elizabeth II: Assembly hails 'courageous leader'](#), 11 September 2022.

## 5.5

## Edinburgh

According to media reports, planning for The King’s activities in the days following the death of Queen Elizabeth was known as “Operation Spring Tide”.<sup>126</sup> As the constitutional historian Vernon Bogdanor argued, this aspect of Charles III’s Accession acknowledged that the United Kingdom of 2022 “was, constitutionally, a different country” to that of 1952.<sup>127</sup>

His Majesty’s visit to Scotland was known as “Operation Kingfisher”.<sup>128</sup> Having replied to Addresses from both Houses of (the UK) Parliament, The King, accompanied by The Queen Consort, were flown to Edinburgh Airport, where they were received by His Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh, Councillor Robert Aldridge, and Alister Jack MP, the Secretary of State for Scotland.

## Ceremony of the Keys

At the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Lord Provost surrendered to The King the Keys of the City, which His Majesty returned to him. Subsequently The King and The Queen Consort were received inside the Palace by the Hereditary Keeper, the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon.<sup>129</sup>



Procession to St Giles’: Contains information licensed under the Scottish Parliament Copyright Licence

<sup>126</sup> Apparently in reference to an especially high spring tide, something known as a “King tide”.

<sup>127</sup> Vernon Bogdanor, [In 1952, Britain was a different country – the Queen evolved with a changing constitution](#), i paper, 19 September 2022.

<sup>128</sup> See [What are Operation Spring Tide and Marquee? A guide to the terms being used after the Queen’s death](#), ITV News website, 10 September 2022.

<sup>129</sup> Court Circular, 12 September 2022.

## Procession to St Giles'

The King, The Duke of York, The Earl of Wessex and Forfar and The Princess Royal, accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, later walked in Procession behind the Coffin bearing Her late Majesty to St Giles' Cathedral. Guns were fired every minute from Edinburgh Castle as the Procession traversed the Royal Mile. The last round fired as the hearse stopped outside the Cathedral.

## Service of Thanksgiving

Their Majesties and Their Royal Highnesses attended a Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Her late Majesty The Queen in St Giles' Cathedral and were received at the West Door by the Minister of St Giles', the Reverend Calum MacLeod.<sup>130</sup> Prior to the Service, the Duke of Hamilton had placed the Crown of Scotland upon The Queen's Coffin.<sup>131</sup>

## Audiences

After the Service, The King received Nicola Sturgeon MSP, the First Minister of Scotland, at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Alison Johnstone MSP, the Presiding Officer of the [Scottish Parliament](#), also had an audience with His Majesty.

## Motion of Condolence

The King and The Queen Consort later drove to the Scottish Parliament and were received at Queensberry House by the Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh, the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament and the First Minister of Scotland.

The session opened with two minutes' silence. The only business was consideration of a Motion of Condolence moved by the First Minister:

Our nation is in mourning today for a Queen whose loss we have not yet begun to come to terms with. We are deeply honoured by the presence today of His Majesty King Charles III and the Queen Consort. Your Majesty, we stand ready to support you as you continue your own life of service and as you build on the extraordinary legacy of your beloved mother, our Queen. Queen Elizabeth, Queen of Scots. We are grateful for her life. May she now rest in peace.

I move,

That the Parliament expresses its deepest regret and grief at the death of Her Majesty The Queen; conveys its sincere condolences to His Majesty The King and other members of the Royal Family in their bereavement; affirms the great

---

<sup>130</sup> See St Giles' Cathedral, [Order of Service](#), 12 September 2022.

<sup>131</sup> [Queen's former page proud to see nephew place crown on her coffin](#), The Times, 13 September 2022. The Crown of Scotland was [made in its present form for King James V of Scotland](#) and forms part of the "Honours of Scotland".

affection and esteem in which Her Majesty was held, and expresses gratitude for her life of exceptional public service and her long and close association with Scotland and the Scottish people.<sup>132</sup>

Douglas Ross, the leader of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Anas Sarwar, the leader of the Scottish Labour Party, Patrick Harvie, the co-leader of the Scottish Green Party and Alex Cole-Hamilton, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats also spoke in support of the motion.



Motion of Condolence: Contains information licensed under the Scottish Parliament Copyright Licence

The Presiding Officer then invited The King to respond:

My mother felt, as I do, the greatest admiration for the Scottish people, for their magnificent achievements and their indomitable spirit, and it was the greatest comfort for her to know, in turn, the true affection in which she was held. The knowledge of that deep and abiding bond must be, to us, a solace as we mourn the end of a life of incomparable service [...]

While still very young, the Queen pledged herself to serve her country and her people and to maintain the principles of constitutional government. As we now mark with gratitude a promise most faithfully fulfilled, I am determined—with God’s help and with yours—to follow that inspiring example.

The title of Duke of Rothesay and the other Scottish titles that I have had the honour to carry for so long I now pass to my elder son, William, who I know will be as proud as I have been to bear the symbols of this ancient kingdom.

I take up my new duties with thankfulness for all that Scotland has given me, with resolve to seek always the welfare of our country and its people, and with whole-hearted trust in your good will and good counsel as we take forward that task together.<sup>133</sup>

<sup>132</sup> Although the First Minister used the term “Queen of Scots”, it has no basis in law and did not form part of the Accession Proclamation in 1952.

<sup>133</sup> [Scottish Parliament Official Report, 12 September 2022](#)

The meeting of the Scottish Parliament closed at 18:17. The King and The Queen Consort afterwards attended a reception in the Garden Lobby.



The King and Queen Consort meeting Scottish party leaders: Contains information licensed under the Scottish Parliament Copyright Licence

## The Queen's Lying-at-Rest

The Queen's Lying-at-Rest at St Giles' Cathedral opened to the public at around 17:30 on Monday 12 September and was open overnight until it closed at around 14:00 on Tuesday 13 September.<sup>134</sup>

The Coffin was guarded by Vigils from The Royal Company of Archers with the Crown of Scotland remaining on top. In the evening The King, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex and Forfar Mounted Vigil at the Coffin, a custom known as the "Vigil of the Princes". Princess Anne became the first female Royal to take part.<sup>135</sup>

The King and other members of the Royal Family afterwards undertook a walkabout outside St Giles' Cathedral.

The King and The Queen Consort stayed overnight at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

<sup>134</sup> Scottish Government press release, [Her Majesty The Queen's Lying at Rest in St Giles' Cathedral](#), 12 September 2022. The description "Lying-at-rest" distinguished this public viewing from the "Lying-in-State" which was to follow at Westminster Hall in London. The Court Circular for 12 September referred erroneously to the "Coffin of Her late Majesty as it **Lay in State** in St Giles' Cathedral".

<sup>135</sup> [Princess Anne makes history by standing guard over the Queen's coffin for Vigil of the Princes](#), Independent, 15 September 2022.

---

## 6

# Tuesday 13 September

Operation Spring Tide continued with The King's first visit to Northern Ireland, something known as "Operation Shamrock".

### 6.1

## Hillsborough Castle

The King and The Queen Consort arrived at Belfast City Airport and were received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Belfast, Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle. Their Majesties drove to [Hillsborough Castle](#) and were received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Down, Gawn Rowan Hamilton. The King and The Queen Consort undertook a short walkabout outside the Castle before moving inside and viewing an exhibition of pictures showing the late Queen's visits to Northern Ireland during her reign.

### Audiences

Christopher Heaton-Harris MP, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was received in audience by The King at Hillsborough Castle. The Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Alex Maskey, and leaders of the main political parties in Northern Ireland were also received by His Majesty.<sup>136</sup>

### Message of Condolence

The Speaker subsequently presented a Message of Condolence from the Assembly to The King in the Throne Room at Hillsborough Castle.<sup>137</sup> The King was graciously pleased to reply:

It is fitting that we should meet at Hillsborough, which my mother knew so well, and in whose beautiful rose garden she always took such pleasure.

In the years since she began her long life of public service, my mother saw Northern Ireland pass through momentous and historic changes. Through all those years, she never ceased to pray for the best of times for this place and for its people, whose stories she knew, whose sorrows our Family had felt, and for whom she had a great affection and regard. My mother felt deeply, I know, the significance of the role she herself played in bringing together those whom

---

<sup>136</sup> [King Charles III asks DUP leader about Northern Ireland Protocol](#), Belfast Telegraph, 13 Sep 2022.

<sup>137</sup> Hillsborough Castle is both a Royal Palace and the residence of the Secretary of State. It was formerly a vice-regal residence for the Governor of Northern Ireland until 1973. Maskey omitted the term of address "Your Majesty" before addressing King Charles.

history had separated, and in extending a hand to make possible the healing of long-held hurts.

At the very beginning of her life of service, The Queen made a pledge to dedicate herself to her country and her people and to maintain the principles of constitutional government. This promise she kept with steadfast faith. Now, with that shining example before me, and with God's help, I take up my new duties resolved to seek the welfare of all the inhabitants of Northern Ireland.<sup>138</sup>

The King and The Queen Consort subsequently gave a reception at Hillsborough Castle for representatives of the people of Northern Ireland.<sup>139</sup>



The King and Queen Consort in the Throne Room at Hillsborough Castle ©Niall Carson/Press Association

## St Anne's Cathedral

At 15:00 Their Majesties attended a Service of Reflection for the Life of Her late Majesty The Queen at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, and were received at the West Door by the Bishop of Connor, the Right Reverend George Davison, and the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Christina Black.<sup>140</sup>

Also attending the service were the Prime Minister, Liz Truss, the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, and the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin.

<sup>138</sup> Royal Family website, [His Majesty The King's reply to the message of condolence at Hillsborough Castle](#), 13 September 2022.

<sup>139</sup> Court Circular, 13 September 2022.

<sup>140</sup> St Anne's Cathedral, [Order of Service](#), 14 September 2022.

## 6.2 Proclamations

Proclamations of King Charles III were made in the Commonwealth Realms of Papua New Guinea<sup>141</sup> and in Jamaica. The latter was read out by Governor-General Patrick Allen and included the line:

Whereas on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and **by virtue of the Accession Act of the United Kingdom** and the Constitution of Jamaica...<sup>142</sup>

There is no UK Accession Act, although it may have been a reference to the Act of Settlement 1701.

## 6.3 The Queen's Coffin

At 16:20 The Queen's Coffin departed from St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh,<sup>143</sup> followed by The Princess Royal (accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence) and was conveyed to Edinburgh Airport. The Scottish Government estimated that around 33,000 people had filed past the Coffin as it Lay-at-Rest.<sup>144</sup>



The Queen's Coffin departs for London from Edinburgh Airport: Contains information licensed under the Scottish Parliament Copyright Licence

<sup>141</sup> Papua New Guinea Parliament, [Proclamation of King Charles III](#).

<sup>142</sup> King's House website, [Proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III](#), 13 September 2022.

<sup>143</sup> First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Presiding Officer Alison Johnstone and Scottish Secretary Alistair Jack had [attended a final prayer service at St Giles'](#) before the Coffin departed.

<sup>144</sup> [Queen's coffin vigil in Edinburgh witnessed by 33,000 people](#), BBC News online, 14 September 2022.

There was a Royal Salute as the Coffin arrived and the Band of the [Royal Regiment of Scotland](#) was also present on the apron. The Coffin was conveyed onto the aircraft by an RAF Bearer Party and a Guard of Honour found by the Royal Regiment of Scotland. As the aircraft departed, the Guard of Honour gave a final Royal Salute and the Band played one verse of the National Anthem.<sup>145</sup>

## 6.4 The King in Council

The King held a meeting of the Privy Council at 18:30 at Buckingham Palace. This allowed the transaction of business which had been due to take place on the evening of Wednesday 7 September. Penny Mordaunt was declared and made affirmation as Lord President of the Council.<sup>146</sup> Sir Clive Alderton,<sup>147</sup> Kemi Badenoch MP, Ranil Jayawardena MP, Wendy Morton MP and Lord True were all sworn as Members of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.<sup>148</sup> Chloe Smith MP made affirmation.<sup>149</sup> As required by the [Promissory Oaths Act 1867](#), several Cabinet ministers took the (statutory) Oath of Office or made affirmation, kissed hands upon appointment and received their Seals of Office. Nadhim Zahawi made affirmation as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster,<sup>150</sup> and an Order was made appointing Kemi Badenoch President of the Board of Trade.<sup>151</sup>

## 6.5 The Queen's Coffin

At RAF Northolt, a Bearer Party and Guard of Honour was formed by The Queen's Colour Squadron. The Guard of Honour presented arms on the Coffin's arrival and remained in position until the State Hearse had departed the airfield.<sup>152</sup> During the flight, the Scottish Royal Standard was replaced by the version used in the rest of the UK. Crowds lined the route as the State Hearse conveyed the Coffin to Buckingham Palace, where it was greeted by The King, The Queen Consort and other members of the Royal Family.<sup>153</sup> The Queen's Coffin rested in the [Bow Room](#) at Buckingham Palace overnight.<sup>154</sup>

<sup>145</sup> According to media reports, the [flight became the most tracked in history](#).

<sup>146</sup> Hitherto, Mordaunt had been "Acting" Lord President.

<sup>147</sup> [Sir Clive Alderton](#) was Private Secretary to The King when he was Prince of Wales.

<sup>148</sup> The Court Circular initially mis-stated this as "Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council".

<sup>149</sup> Eight Orders were also made appointing Simon Case and the MPs Edward Argar, Vicky Ford, James Heappey, Stephen McPartland, Chris Philp, Graham Stuart and Tom Tugendhat Privy Counsellors.

<sup>150</sup> By custom, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster collects their seal in private audience with the monarch. It is not clear if this custom applied at this meeting of the Privy Council.

<sup>151</sup> [Privy Council meeting, 13 September 2022](#). The only other item of business was an Order approving the Government of Alderney (Amendment) Law, 2022.

<sup>152</sup> The [design for the State Hearse, a modified Jaguar Land Rover, was approved by Queen Elizabeth](#).

<sup>153</sup> [Royal Family greet Queen Elizabeth II's coffin at Buckingham Palace](#), BBC News online, 14 September 2022.

<sup>154</sup> Royal Family website, [Her Majesty The Queen's coffin will return to London](#), 12 September 2022.

## 7

## Wednesday 14 September

According to media reports, planning for The Queen's [Lying-in-State](#) at Westminster Hall was known as "Operation Marquee".<sup>155</sup>

## 7.1

### Audiences

The King held several audiences prior to the Lying-in-State. The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, General David Hurley, spoke to The King via telephone in the morning.<sup>156</sup> The President of Ireland, the President of the United States of America, the Governor-General of Canada, the Governor-General of Jamaica (Sir Patrick Allen) and the President of the French Republic (Emmanuel Macron) also spoke to The King via telephone throughout the day.<sup>157</sup>

## 7.2

### Reception of the Coffin at Westminster Hall

At 14:22 the Queen's Coffin was borne in State from Buckingham Palace on a Gun Carriage of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, flanked by the Escort Party found by 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion [Grenadier Guards](#), to the Palace of Westminster.<sup>158</sup> In Hyde Park, 38 rounds were fired in a Royal Gun Salute to mark each minute of the Procession. Big Ben tolled 38 times.

The Coffin was followed by The King, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Sussex, the Duke of York, the Earl of Wessex, the Princess Royal, Mr Peter Phillips, the Duke of Gloucester, the Earl of Snowdon and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence.<sup>159</sup> Other members of the Royal Family travelled separately.

The King and The Queen Consort and other members of the Royal Family were received at the North Door of Westminster Hall by the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Lord Speaker and the Speaker of the House of Commons.

<sup>155</sup> [What are Operation Spring Tide and Marquee? A guide to the terms being used after the Queen's death](#), ITV News website, 10 September 2022.

<sup>156</sup> The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cornwall, also held a meeting with the [Duchy of Cornwall Finance Committee](#) via video link.

<sup>157</sup> Court Circular, 14 September 2022.

<sup>158</sup> The Procession travelled via Queen's Gardens, The Mall, Horse Guards and Horse Guards Arch, Whitehall, Parliament Street, Parliament Square and New Palace Yard.

<sup>159</sup> As non-working royals, the Duke of York and the Duke of Sussex did not wear military uniforms for the Procession.

The King and The Queen Consort and other members of the Royal Family attended a service for the reception of the Coffin conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dean of Westminster.<sup>160</sup> This, like the Accession Council, was televised for the first time. A limited number of nominated MPs and peers also attended, as did members of the legislatures of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and Commonwealth Realm High Commissioners.<sup>161</sup>

His Majesty's [Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms](#) and The King's Body Guard of the [Yeomen of the Guard](#) stood guard.<sup>162</sup> The Coffin was draped with the Royal Standard, on which lay the "Instruments of State": the [Imperial State Crown, Orb and Sceptre](#), where they were to remain for the duration of the State Funeral and Committal Service.



Reception of The Queen's Coffin at Westminster Hall ©UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

## 7.3 The Lying-in-State

The Queen's Lying-in-State (as distinct from the Lying-at-Rest in Edinburgh) began at 17:00. The queue was anticipated to be long. MPs and peers (and a certain number of guests) and staff employed directly by Parliament were able to join the queue from within the Palace of Westminster.<sup>163</sup>

---

<sup>160</sup> Westminster Hall, [Order of Service](#), 14 September 2022.

<sup>161</sup> UK Parliament website, [Service for the commencement of Lying-in-State of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II](#), 14 September 2022.

<sup>162</sup> Court Circular, 14 September 2022.

<sup>163</sup> This led to criticism about "queue jumping" (see [Controversy as MPs skip the 10-mile queue with guests to see the Queen Lying in State](#), ITV News website, 16 September 2022).

---

## 8 Thursday 15 September

The King and The Queen Consort spent the day at [Highgrove House](#) and Ray Mill House, respectively.<sup>164</sup>

### 8.1 Audiences

The President of the Republic of Rwanda, the President of the Hellenic Republic, the Governor-General of New Zealand (Dame Cynthia Kiro), the President of the Italian Republic, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Acting Governor-General of Saint Lucia (Errol Charles), the Prime Minister of Barbados (Mia Mottley) and the King of Saudi Arabia spoke to The King via telephone during the morning.<sup>165</sup>

### 8.2 Lying-in-State

Thursday was the first full day of The Queen's Lying-in-State. At 05:00 the queue was 2.1 miles long and stretched to Southwark Bridge. Those waiting in line were given a coloured wristband to prevent queue jumping and to allow for food and comfort breaks.<sup>166</sup>

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace and Scottish Secretary Alister Jack, both members of the Royal Company of Archers, took part in the Vigil around the Queen's Coffin.<sup>167</sup>

### 8.3 Details of State Funeral

Buckingham Palace [released details of the State Funeral to take place on Monday 19 September](#). A pre-dawn rehearsal had taken place that day.<sup>168</sup>

---

<sup>164</sup> [King Charles III: Monarch returns to Highgrove](#), BBC News online, 15 September 2022.

<sup>165</sup> Court Circular, 15 September 2022.

<sup>166</sup> [Queen's lying in state enters first full day as rehearsals take place overnight for late monarch's funeral](#), Sky News website, 15 September 2022.

<sup>167</sup> [Ben Wallace and Alister Jack stand guard over Queen's coffin](#), BBC News online, 15 September 2022.

<sup>168</sup> [Practising for the Queen's final parade: Military's pre-dawn rehearsal for Monday's funeral](#), LBC website, 15 September 2022.

## 9 Friday 16 September

Operation Spring Tide concluded with Operation Dragon, The King's first visit to Wales as monarch. This coincided with [Owain Glyndŵr Day](#), a celebration of the last native-born Prince of Wales.

### 9.1 Llandaff Cathedral

The King and The Queen Consort were flown to Wales by helicopter and attended a Service of Prayer and Reflection for the Life of The late Queen at [Llandaff Cathedral](#), Cardiff.<sup>169</sup> Afterwards The King and The Queen Consort met schoolchildren and members of the public on Llandaff Green.

### 9.2 The Senedd

The King and The Queen Consort then drove to the [Senedd](#) (the Welsh Parliament) where they were received by the Presiding Officer (Elin Jones MS) and the First Minister of Wales (Mark Drakeford MS). The Senedd presented its motion of condolence to The King, to which His Majesty replied in Welsh and English:

I am deeply grateful for the Addresses of Condolence which so movingly pay tribute to our late Sovereign, my beloved mother The Queen. Gwn y bydd Senedd a phobl Cymru yn rhannu fy nhristwch. [I know the Senedd and people of Wales share my sadness].

Through all the years of her reign, the land of Wales could not have been closer to my mother's heart. Roedd lle arbennig i Gymru yn ei chalon. [Wales had a special place in her heart.] I know she took immense pride in your many great achievements – even as she also felt with you deeply in time of sorrow.

It must surely be counted the greatest privilege to belong to a land that could inspire such devotion. I am resolved to honour that selfless example, in the spirit of the words by which I have always tried to live my own life: Ich Dien, I Serve. Gwasanaethaf.

Braint oedd bod yn Dywysog Cymru mor hir. Yn awr, bydd fy mab William yn derbyn y teitl. Mae ganddo ef gariad dwfn at Gymru. [It was a privilege to be

<sup>169</sup> Llandaff Cathedral, [Order of Service](#), 16 September 2022. The Church in Wales was disestablished in 1920.

Prince of Wales for so long. Now my son, William, will bear the title. He has a deep love for Wales.]

I take up my new duties with immense gratitude for the privilege of having been able to serve as Prince of Wales. That ancient title, dating from the time of those great Welsh rulers, like Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, whose memory is still rightly honoured, I now pass to my son, William, whose love for this corner of the Earth is made all the greater by the years he himself has spent here.

Boneddigion a boneddigesau, fel fy Mam annwyl o'm blaen, rwy'n gwybod ein bod ni oll yn caru'r wlad arbennig hon. [Ladies and gentlemen, like my beloved mother before me, I know we all share a love for this special land.] Having visited the Senedd regularly since it was founded, and having heard your heartfelt words today, I know we all share the deepest commitment to the welfare of the people of this land and that we will all continue to work together to that end.<sup>170</sup>



The King at the Senedd in Cardiff ©Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament

Afterwards The King and The Queen Consort met members of the [Welsh Youth Parliament](#) and Members of the Senedd. They subsequently undertook a walkabout outside the Senedd building in Cardiff Bay.<sup>171</sup>

## 9.3

### Cardiff Castle

The King and The Queen Consort afterwards drove to [Cardiff Castle](#). The First Minister of Wales and Presiding Officer were received in audience by His Majesty. Their Majesties subsequently gave a reception for Members of the Senedd.<sup>172</sup> A “silent protest” against the monarchy took place outside.<sup>173</sup>

<sup>170</sup> Royal Family website, [His Majesty The King's reply to the message of condolence at the Senedd](#), 16 September 2022.

<sup>171</sup> Court Circular, 16 September 2022.

<sup>172</sup> Court Circular, 16 September 2022.

<sup>173</sup> [King Charles III in Cardiff for first Wales visit as monarch](#), BBC News online, 16 September 2022.

## 9.4

### Faith leaders

On returning to Buckingham Palace, The King told a gathering of faith leaders that he was:

a committed Anglican Christian, and at my Coronation I will take an oath relating to the settlement of the Church of England [...] I have always thought of Britain as a “community of communities.” That has led me to understand that the Sovereign has an additional duty – less formally recognized but to be no less diligently discharged. It is the duty to protect the diversity of our country, including by protecting the space for Faith itself and its practise through the religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs to which our hearts and minds direct us as individuals. This diversity is not just enshrined in the laws of our country, it is enjoined by my own faith.<sup>174</sup>

## 9.5

### Lying-in-State

In the evening The King, the Duke of York, the Earl of Wessex and the Princess Royal mounted Vigil at The Queen’s Coffin as it continued to Lay-in-State at Westminster Hall.<sup>175</sup> The [Duke of York wore military uniform](#).



The Queen’s children mount Vigil in Westminster Hall ©UK Parliament/Roger Harris

<sup>174</sup> Royal Family website, [The King’s Remarks to Faith Leaders](#), 16 September 2022.

<sup>175</sup> “The Queue”, as it had become known in the media, [was paused for six hours after reaching capacity](#) on Friday 16 September. That day a 28-year-old man was also arrested after [running from the queue inside Westminster Hall and touching the Coffin](#).

## 10

# Saturday 17 September

### 10.1

## Audiences

At Buckingham Palace, The King held audiences with the [Defence Chiefs of Staff](#) before visiting the [Metropolitan Police Special Operations Room](#) in Lambeth to thank emergency services workers ahead of the State Funeral.

The King then hosted the Governors-General of the Commonwealth Realms for a reception and lunch at Buckingham Palace and, later, received Commonwealth Realm Prime Ministers, including Justin Trudeau (Canada), Anthony Albanese (Australia) and Jacinda Ardern (New Zealand).<sup>176</sup>

### 10.2

## Lying-in-State

The Queen's eight grandchildren stood Vigil in Westminster Hall. The King was later joined by The Prince of Wales to visit those who had been queueing to see The Queen Lying-in-State at Westminster Hall.



The Queen's grandchildren mount Vigil in Westminster Hall ©UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

<sup>176</sup> Court Circular, 17 September 2022.

## 10.3 Church of England

On 17 September The King directed by Royal Warrant that the “prayers for or referring to the Sovereign or other members of the Royal Family should be altered”. The Warrant confirmed:

[T]hat in any text pertaining to the Sovereign in any form of service authorized for use in the Church of England, ‘King’ should replace ‘Queen’, ‘Charles’ should replace ‘Elizabeth’, and instead of ‘Sovereign Lady’ the words ‘Sovereign Lord’ should be inserted, with the appropriate changes of pronouns.

The same Warrant directed that instead of the words “Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales” the words “Camilla the Queen Consort, William Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales” should be inserted into the Prayer for the Royal Family in the [Book of Common Prayer](#).<sup>177</sup>

Until the passage of the [Church of England \(Worship and Doctrine\) Measure 1974](#),<sup>178</sup> such alterations required an Order in Council.<sup>179</sup> The 1974 Measure, however, gave the Church itself the power to regulate liturgical texts (including the Book of Common Prayer) by Canon instead of requiring an Act of Parliament. It also meant changes to Royal Prayers could be made via a request for a Royal Warrant.

In a further Warrant, The King directed that the forms of prayer and service used on Accession Day (a Commemoration) as previously set out in the Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship for 6 February (the date of Queen Elizabeth II’s Accession) should now be used on the anniversary of his Accession, 8 September, a date shared by the [Lesser Festival](#), the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.<sup>180</sup>

Other churches – including the “national” Church of Scotland – will also be required to change the wording of their prayers for the Royal Family, although they will not require The King’s authority to do so.<sup>181</sup>

The King automatically became Supreme Governor of the Church of England on the afternoon of Thursday 8 September,<sup>182</sup> and was proclaimed “Defender of the Faith” at his Accession Council on Saturday 10 September.<sup>183</sup>

<sup>177</sup> Lambeth Palace, [Prayers for the Sovereign and for the Royal Family, and Prayers and Forms of Service for Accession Day](#), 20 September 2022. The officers of the General Synod of the Church of England had earlier written to The King offering [condolences on the death of Her Late Majesty the Queen](#).

<sup>178</sup> See [Section 1\(7\)](#).

<sup>179</sup> See, for example, [The London Gazette, 4 March 1952](#).

<sup>180</sup> Lambeth Palace, [Prayers for the Sovereign and for the Royal Family, and Prayers and Forms of Service for Accession Day](#).

<sup>181</sup> In February 1952 an Order in Council merely “exhorted” ministers and priests in the Kirk and Scottish Episcopal Church to pray for the Royal Family. The Lord Advocate later ruled that this was no longer required given that both churches were self-governing.

<sup>182</sup> See [Canon A 7 Of the Royal Supremacy](#).

<sup>183</sup> In 1543, the Parliament of England conferred this title upon King Henry VIII and his successors.

## 11

## Sunday 18 September

Sunday 18 September was the last full day of The Queen’s Lying-in-State. Among the world leaders paying their respects were the US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron.<sup>184</sup>



Members of the public pay their respects at the Lying-in-State ©UK Parliament/Annabel Moeller

## 11.1

### National Moment of Reflection

At 20:00 there was a [National Moment of Reflection](#). Big Ben was supposed to strike twice (at the beginning and end of the minute’s silence) but failed due to “a minor technical issue”.<sup>185</sup>

The King then hosted world leaders at Buckingham Palace on the eve of the State Funeral.<sup>186</sup> In a statement, he and The Queen Consort said they were “[moved beyond measure](#)” by everyone who had taken the trouble to pay their respects at the Lying-in-State.

<sup>184</sup> [Joe Biden latest world leader to witness Queen’s lying in state](#), Guardian, 18 September 2022.

<sup>185</sup> [Big Ben ‘fixed’ after it fails to mark minute’s silence due to technical fault](#), Evening Standard, 19 September 2022.

<sup>186</sup> [World leaders arrive at Buckingham Palace reception hosted by King Charles III](#), Independent, 18 September 2022.

## 12

## Monday 19 September

On the morning of the State Funeral, the Lying-in-State came to an end at 06:30 as the final members of the public were admitted to Westminster Hall. Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan later told Sky News that more than 250,000 people had paid their respects.<sup>187</sup> The London Stock Exchange was shut for the day (a bank holiday), as were many businesses.<sup>188</sup> Heathrow Airport [stopped all departures and arrivals for 30 minutes from 11:40](#).

## 12.1

## Procession from Westminster Hall

At 10:44 The Queen's Coffin was borne in Procession on the [State Gun Carriage](#) to Westminster Abbey. Not seen since the [state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill](#), it was pulled by 98 Royal Navy sailors.<sup>189</sup> The King, members of the Royal Family and Royal Household again followed in Procession.



The Procession from Westminster Hall to the Abbey ©UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

<sup>187</sup> [More than 250,000 people saw the Queen lying in state in Westminster Hall in London, says culture secretary](#), Sky News website, 20 September 2022.

<sup>188</sup> As a mark of respect, organisations had been asked to consider cancelling, postponing or adjusting the timings of events on the day of the State Funeral, but were under no obligation to do so.

<sup>189</sup> This tradition dates from the [1901 State Funeral of Queen Victoria](#), when the horses intended to pull her Gun Carriage became agitated.

The Procession – which was led by the massed pipes and drums of the Scottish and Irish Regiments, the [Brigade of Gurkhas](#), and the Royal Air Force – included detachments from the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth, as well as detachments of the British Armed Forces who held a special relationship with The Queen.

The Procession arrived at the West Gate of Westminster Abbey at 10:52, where the Bearer Party lifted the Coffin from the State Gun Carriage and carried it inside.<sup>190</sup>

## 12.2 State Funeral

The State Funeral service was attended by heads of state and overseas government representatives, including foreign Royal families, Commonwealth Realm Governors-General and Prime Ministers. Other representatives included recipients of the Victoria and George Crosses, UK and devolved legislatures, the Church of England and charities of which The Queen was patron.<sup>191</sup> A total of around 2,000 people were in attendance.

The service was conducted by the Dean of Westminster. The (UK) Prime Minister and the Commonwealth Secretary-General read lessons. The Archbishop of York, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the [Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland](#) and the [Free Churches Moderator](#) all said prayers.<sup>192</sup> The sermon was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who also gave the commendation. The Dean of Westminster then pronounced the blessing.

Towards the end of the service the [Last Post](#) was sounded followed by a two-minute's silence which was observed in the Abbey and throughout the United Kingdom. The National Anthem and a bagpipe lament (“Sleep, dearie, sleep”) brought the State Funeral to a close at around 12:00. A wreath with flowers from Buckingham Palace, Highgrove and Clarence House had been placed on the Coffin with a note from The King: [“In loving and devoted memory. Charles R.”](#)

This was the first State Funeral for a former sovereign [at the Abbey since George II's in 1760](#) and the first to be televised.<sup>193</sup> The Scottish and English Heralds also had their first joint appearance at a State Funeral.

---

<sup>190</sup> Royal Family website, [The Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II](#).

<sup>191</sup> Almost 200 people who were recognised in The Queen's Birthday Honours earlier in 2022 also joined the congregation, including those who made contributions to the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

<sup>192</sup> Representatives from several churches in each part of the United Kingdom were present (see Westminster Abbey, [Order of Service](#), 19 September 2022).

<sup>193</sup> According to Barb, the State Funeral had an [average television audience of 26.2 million](#) across all UK channels.

After the service, the Coffin was borne through the Abbey and returned to the State Gun Carriage for the Procession to [Wellington Arch](#).

## 12.3 Procession to Wellington Arch

The King and members of the Royal Family again followed The Queen's Coffin in Procession, led by the [Royal Mounted Canadian Police](#). Minute Guns were fired in Hyde Park by The King's Troop and Royal Horse Artillery. The King's Guard gave a Royal Salute as the Coffin passed the [Queen Victoria Memorial](#) outside Buckingham Palace. Big Ben tolled (its hammer muffled with leather) throughout the duration of the Procession. The Gun Carriage (again pulled by sailors) reached Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner at around 13:00.

At Wellington Arch, the Coffin was transferred to the State Hearse to travel to Windsor. As the State Hearse departed Wellington Arch at 13:37, the parade was given a Royal Salute and the National Anthem was played. The King and other members of the Royal Family then departed for Windsor by car.<sup>194</sup>



The Procession to Wellington Arch ©UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

## 12.4 Committal Service

When the Coffin reached Windsor, the State Hearse slowed to join a Procession to be formed up on Albert Road to travel via [The Long Walk](#) to [St](#)

---

<sup>194</sup> Royal Family website, [The State Funeral and Committal Service for Her Majesty The Queen](#), 15 September 2022.

[George's Chapel](#), Windsor, for the Committal Service. Members of the Royal Family joined the Procession in the Quadrangle at Windsor Castle. Minute Guns were fired on the East Lawn, Windsor Castle by The King's Troop and Royal Horse Artillery. The Sebastopol Bell and Curfew Tower Bell were tolled.

The Procession halted at the bottom of the West Steps of St George's Chapel where a Guard of Honour, found by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards, was mounted. The Queen's Coffin was then borne in Procession into the Chapel.

The Committal Service began 16:00. Alongside The King and members of the Royal Family, the congregation comprised past and present members of The Queen's Household, including from the private estates. Also in attendance were Commonwealth Realm Governors-General and Prime Ministers. The service was conducted by the Dean of Windsor, with prayers said by the Rector of Sandringham, the Minister of [Crathie Kirk](#) and the Chaplain of [Windsor Great Park](#). The Choir of St George's Chapel sang during the Service.

Prior to the final hymn, the Imperial State Crown, Orb and Sceptre were removed from the Coffin by the [Crown Jeweller](#) and placed on the altar by the Dean of Windsor.<sup>195</sup> At the end of the final hymn, The King placed [The Queen's Company Camp Colour](#) of the Grenadier Guards on the Coffin. At the same time, the [Lord Chamberlain](#) (the most senior officer of the Royal Household) "broke" (or unscrewed) his wand of office and placed it on the Coffin.

As The Queen's Coffin was lowered into the Royal Vault, the Dean of Windsor said a psalm and the commendation before Garter King of Arms proclaimed Her late Majesty's styles and titles:

[T]he late Most High, Most Mighty, and Most Excellent Monarch, Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, and Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.<sup>196</sup>

The [Sovereign's Piper](#) played a lament and the Archbishop of Canterbury pronounced the blessing. The National Anthem concluded the service.

## 12.5 Private Burial

At 19:30 a Private Burial conducted by the Dean of Windsor took place in the [King George VI Memorial Chapel](#). Queen Elizabeth II and her [late Consort the Duke of Edinburgh](#) were [interred together with The Queen's parents](#), King George VI and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. A reinscribed ledger stone set into the floor included the names, birth and death dates of all four, together with a metal star representing the [Order of the Garter](#).<sup>197</sup>

---

<sup>195</sup> For later return to the Tower of London.

<sup>196</sup> St George's Chapel, [Order of Service](#), 19 September 2022.

<sup>197</sup> [Queen's name inscribed on family chapel stone at Windsor](#), BBC News online, 21 September 2022.

## 13 Future Accession events

Although the Accession of a new Sovereign is immediate and the associated ceremonial/constitutional events largely take place within the first two weeks, other aspects play out during the first year of a new reign.

### 13.1 Parliament

Parliamentary business resumed on Wednesday 21 September with more MPs re-taking their Parliamentary Oath.<sup>198</sup> The title pages of the bound [Journals of the House of Commons](#) and House of Lords will be altered to refer to King Charles III. Future Acts of Parliament will begin: “BE IT ENACTED by the King’s most Excellent Majesty...”

#### A new Regency Act?

Several constitutional lawyers have advocated reforming the Regency Acts 1937 to 1953. These set out the law regarding Counsellors of State, members of the Royal Family who can carry out certain duties on the Monarch’s behalf. The law lecturer Craig Prescott has argued that legislation could provide “for other members of the royal family to become Counsellors of State – Princess Anne and Prince Edward”.<sup>199</sup> Since the Accession, there has been renewed speculation regarding a change in the law.<sup>200</sup> Previous Regency legislation was introduced to Parliament following a Message from the sovereign.

#### Royal Titles Act 1953

Media reports also suggest that some MPs and peers support amending the [Royal Titles Act 1953](#) to confer the posthumous title “Queen Elizabeth the Faithful” on the late Queen Elizabeth II.<sup>201</sup> Commonwealth Realms such as Australia may also legislate to alter The King’s Royal Titles in other countries where he is head of state.<sup>202</sup>

<sup>198</sup> Two Alba MPs refused to do so on the basis that “[it is the \[Scottish\] people that are sovereign](#)”. The Welsh and Scottish Parliaments resumed on Tuesday 20 September; [The King approved his first ministerial appointments](#) the same day.

<sup>199</sup> [Has the departure of two senior royals sparked a constitutional crisis?](#), CNN, 21 January 2022.

<sup>200</sup> [King Charles seeks to amend law on who can act as his stand-in](#), Telegraph, 18 September 2022.

<sup>201</sup> [MPs and peers find a more fitting title for the Queen than ‘Elizabeth the Great’](#), Daily Telegraph (£), 14 September 2022. It is not clear how this would work in legislative form. In his tribute to The Queen, the former Prime Minister Boris Johnson also used the term “[Elizabeth the Great](#)”.

<sup>202</sup> See, for example, the [Royal Style and Titles Act 1973](#).

## State Opening of Parliament

The [Bill of Rights Act 1688](#) requires The King to swear the Accession Declaration Oath, either at his first [State Opening of Parliament](#) or at his coronation, whichever occurs first.<sup>203</sup> The current wording of the Oath is provided for in the [Accession Declaration Act 1910](#). The date for the coronation has yet to be announced while the current session of Parliament is due to end in spring 2023.<sup>204</sup>

### 13.2

## Coronation

By law, The King succeeded to the Throne immediately on the afternoon of Thursday 8 September,<sup>205</sup> but his crowning at Westminster Abbey will still be a major event early in his reign. A Coronation Committee of the Privy Council (chaired by the Earl Marshal) is generally formed to plan the ceremony.

Separately, a [Court of Claims](#) is formed, comprising Privy Counsellors (usually judges) commissioned by the King in Council.<sup>206</sup> This decides upon claims to perform special services at the coronation. A Proclamation (which is read publicly across the UK) will likely announce the coronation date.

At the ceremony itself, the [Coronation Oath Act 1688](#) requires the Sovereign to take the Coronation Oath. This has been altered several times, not always via statute. The Imperial State Crown is also “made anew for every sovereign and they have the right to change the design”,<sup>207</sup> although this is usually a matter of sizing and practicality rather than of fundamental redesign.

### 13.3

## Diplomatic credentials and Privileged Bodies

The King may need to receive new “credentials” from overseas ambassadors and Commonwealth High Commissioners to the [Court of St James’s](#). Queen Elizabeth II did so a few months after her Accession in 1952.<sup>208</sup>

Following an Accession [Privileged Bodies](#) – institutions and corporations which enjoy an historic right of access to the Monarch – also present Loyal Addresses to which the Sovereign replies.

---

<sup>203</sup> Queen Elizabeth II took her Accession Declaration Oath at the first State Opening of her reign; King George VI took his at his coronation.

<sup>204</sup> See Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP9501, [State Opening of Parliament – history and ceremonial](#).

<sup>205</sup> As Bob Morris of UCL’s Constitution Unit has observed: “Coronations do not make a sovereign, the law does” (see Bob Morris, [Inaugurating a New Reign: Planning for Accession and Coronation](#), London: Constitution Unit, June 2018, para 3.1).

<sup>206</sup> See, for example, the [London Gazette, 23 December 1910](#)

<sup>207</sup> Antony Jay, Elizabeth R: The Role of the Monarchy Today, London: BBC Books, 1992, pp18-19.

<sup>208</sup> [London Gazette, 16 May 1952](#)

## 13.4 Official portraits

The King may sit for official photographic portraits. Queen Elizabeth II did so on 26 February 1952, just 20 days after her Accession. The photographer was Dorothy Wilding, whose images formed the basis of The Queen’s image on new coins, bank notes and stamps (see below), portraits that became known as “Wildings”. Another image was selected for an official portrait to be displayed in every UK Embassy and High Commission around the world.<sup>209</sup>

## 13.5 Royal Warrants

When the grantor (the monarch, their consort and heir) of a [Royal Warrant](#) dies, any they have issued become void and the grantee has two years to stop using the Royal Arms.<sup>210</sup> According to the BBC, Warrants issued when The King was Prince of Wales will continue as they go with the household.<sup>211</sup> Also according to the BBC, the [Royal Warrant Holders Association](#) says the future of extant Royal Warrants are to be reviewed by the Royal Household.<sup>212</sup>

## 13.6 Great Seals

Shortly after the beginning of a new reign, a new [Great Seal of the Realm](#) (used to authorise Proclamations and other instruments) is presented to the Lord Chancellor during a meeting of the Privy Council. The old Great Seal is ritually defaced by the Sovereign. The same ceremony takes place for the [Scottish Seal](#) (often erroneously referred to as the “Great Seal of Scotland”). A new [Welsh Seal](#) and [Great Seal of Northern Ireland](#) will also be commissioned. As per Orders in Council approved at the Accession Council, old seals remain in use until replacements are ready.

## 13.7 Passports

All UK passports issued in the name of “Her Majesty” remain valid for travel, but the wording on the inside of the front cover of new passports issued will likely be updated to “**His Britannic Majesty’s** Secretary of State Requests and

---

<sup>209</sup> Royal Collection Trust website, [Dorothy Wilding \(1893 – 1976\)](#).

<sup>210</sup> Warrants issued by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother stood for five years after her death in 2002.

<sup>211</sup> [Royal rebranding: What will happen to stamps, coins, banknotes and passports?](#), BBC News online, 9 September 2022.

<sup>212</sup> [King Charles III: Welsh businesses await Royal Warrant decision](#), BBC News online, 13 September 2022.

requires in the Name of **His Majesty** all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance...<sup>213</sup>

## 13.8 Currency

### Coinage

The direction a monarch faces on coinage alternates with each reign.<sup>214</sup> Custom also dictates that Latin be used for the title. Once signed off by the King in Council, new designs will be manufactured at the [Royal Mint](#) in Llantrisant, South Wales. As with previous Accessions, coinage bearing the image of the former sovereign will remain in circulation for several years.<sup>215</sup>

### Bank notes

Queen Elizabeth II appeared on all Bank of England notes after 1960 (notes issued by Scottish and Northern Irish banks did not depict the monarch). These will gradually be phased out and substituted with new designs featuring The King.

## 13.9 Stamps

Since 1967, all postage stamps issued by the Royal Mail have featured an embossed profile silhouette of Queen Elizabeth II.<sup>216</sup> Although these can still be used on letters and parcels, the Royal Mail will begin the process of commissioning new designs. As with new coins, these will be subject to The King's approval.

## 13.10 Royal cypher

A [Royal cypher](#) typically consists of a monarch's name and title, sometimes interwoven with or surmounted by a crown. It changes with each reign and a new design is approved by the Sovereign following submissions from the [College of Arms](#).

---

<sup>213</sup> See Euronews website, '[In the name of Her Majesty': How UK passports are changing now that King Charles III is monarch](#)', 20 September 2022. The Queen is also mentioned on the front pages of passports issued by Commonwealth Realms such as Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

<sup>214</sup> This tradition began when King Charles II chose to "turn his back" on Oliver Cromwell's republican Commonwealth.

<sup>215</sup> [King Charles III: Coins to enter circulation, Royal Mint confirms](#), BBC News, 27 September 2022.

<sup>216</sup> The Queen's image also featured on stamps in the Crown Dependencies, British Overseas Territories and in some Commonwealth Realms.



©College of Arms/Royal Household

The King's new cypher (above, in colour) was revealed on 27 September 2022. It consists of the initials of his name, Charles, and title, Rex (Latin for King), alongside a representation of the Tudor Crown. The Scottish version (also above, in black and white) features the Crown of Scotland and was approved by Lord Lyon King of Arms.

The King's cypher will appear on government buildings, state documents and on some post boxes. It will also be used by government departments and by the Royal Household for franking mail. The decision to replace cyphers will be at the discretion of individual organisations, and the process will be gradual.<sup>217</sup>

Several police forces in England and Wales currently feature the Royal cypher of Queen Elizabeth II in the centre of their helmet plates. These are also likely to be changed in due course.

## 13.11

### Republicanism?

Following the Accession of King Charles III, the chief executive of [Republic](#) (a campaign group calling for abolition of the monarchy) claimed the organisation had gained a thousand new members. He said:

---

<sup>217</sup> Buckingham Palace press release, His Majesty The King's cypher is revealed, 26 September 2022.

We're seeing far more dissenting, less deferential voices. All of this has been helped by the unjust arrests of protesters, the events of the Accession Council and scandals like 'cash for honours'.<sup>218</sup>

The Labour MP Clive Lewis also argued in the Guardian that the “fundamental truth” about the monarchy was its role as a national distraction:

It is a spectacle exalted for exemplifying virtues that should be typical in public life and public behaviour. Casting such behaviour as exceptional allows the likes of Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and the economic elites they represent to break and exploit the rules for their own benefit and that of their very narrow class interest – of which the monarchy is an integral part [...]

So while republicans should respect the language of 'duty' and 'sacrifice' monarchists have so forcefully claimed that the royal family makes on our behalf, we should not pretend that the reality is anything other than a lie.<sup>219</sup>

After signing the Accession Proclamation on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the Commonwealth Realm might hold a referendum on becoming a republic within the next three years.<sup>220</sup>

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern also reiterated her view that her country would become a republic within her lifetime.<sup>221</sup>

In Australia, the journalist Nick Cater argued that the country was “witnessing not just increased support for the monarchy but a hardening of that support”,<sup>222</sup> although “Abolish the Monarchy” demonstrations later took place on a public holiday to mark the Queen’s death.<sup>223</sup>

Barbados became a republic in November 2021.<sup>224</sup> Most of the remaining Caribbean Commonwealth Realms would require a referendum to remove The King as their head of state.<sup>225</sup>

---

<sup>218</sup> [Republican campaign groups claim surge in interest since death of Queen](#), Guardian, 18 September 2022.

<sup>219</sup> [Idea of monarchy as symbol of duty or sacrifice 'a lie', says Labour's Clive](#), Guardian, 16 September 2022. According to the same report, Labour MPs had been instructed to “suspend all campaigning and party activity” beyond casework and advice surgeries and make no comment to the media beyond giving tributes to The Queen.

<sup>220</sup> [Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne plans referendum on replacing the monarchy](#), ITV News website, 11 September 2022.

<sup>221</sup> [New Zealand PM envisages country becoming republic 'over course of lifetime'](#), Independent, 19 September 2022.

<sup>222</sup> [Support for monarchy soars in Australia after death of Queen](#), The Times (£), 19 September 2022.

<sup>223</sup> [Anti-monarchy protestors burn Australian flag on day of mourning](#), The Times (£), 22 September 2022.

<sup>224</sup> See Commons Library Insight, [Barbados becomes a republic](#).

<sup>225</sup> The Visible Crown website, [Routes to Republicanism in the Caribbean](#), 29 April 2022.

The House of Commons Library is a research and information service based in the UK Parliament. Our impartial analysis, statistical research and resources help MPs and their staff scrutinise legislation, develop policy, and support constituents.

Our published material is available to everyone on [commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk).

Get our latest research delivered straight to your inbox. Subscribe at [commonslibrary.parliament.uk/subscribe](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/subscribe) or scan the code below:



 [commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk)

 [@commonslibrary](https://twitter.com/commonslibrary)