

Royal Family Shakeup: King Charles Faces Major Palace Transition

King Charles III is preparing for one of the most significant staff transitions of his reign as Sir Clive Alderton, his longtime principal private secretary and closest senior adviser, prepares to step down in 2027 after two decades of service to the Royal Household.

According to People, Alderton plans to leave the role around his 60th birthday, with Buckingham Palace beginning the search for his successor ahead of his departure. The appointment will mark a pivotal moment for the monarchy, as Alderton has been one of the King's most trusted advisers throughout Charles' transition to the throne and the early years of his reign.

Often described as one of the most influential figures behind palace walls, Alderton has quietly helped guide the monarchy through historic milestones, including the death of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 and the planning and execution of King Charles' coronation the following year, according to People.

In a message to palace staff, Alderton reflected on his years of service with gratitude.

"It has been the greatest imaginable honor to serve Their Majesties over the past 20 years," he said, adding that he looks forward to continuing to support King Charles and Queen Camilla in an informal capacity after his retirement, according to People.

Buckingham Palace praised Alderton's years of leadership, saying King Charles and Queen Camilla are "deeply grateful" for his loyal service, wise counsel and unwavering support, People reported.



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Alderton's career has spanned both diplomacy and royal service. After joining the British Foreign Office in 1986, he served in diplomatic posts across Europe, Asia and North Africa before joining the Royal Household in 2006. He later became Charles' principal private secretary in 2015, a role that placed him at the center of many of the monarchy's most consequential decisions.

While Alderton has largely remained out of the public spotlight, his name became familiar to many royal watchers following the release of Prince Harry's memoir, *Spare*. Although Harry never identified him directly, People noted that Alderton is widely believed to be the palace official Harry referred to as "The Wasp," a nickname the Duke of Sussex used to describe a senior palace aide he believed wielded considerable influence behind the scenes.

The transition also carries practical implications beyond palace administration. Alderton currently serves on the Royal and VIP Executive Committee (RAVEC), the body responsible for overseeing security arrangements for members of the Royal Family and other protected individuals. According to People, his successor will inherit that role, making the appointment noteworthy as Prince Harry continues to challenge decisions surrounding his own security after stepping back from royal duties.

Leadership changes often signal the close of one chapter and the beginning of another. As King Charles continues to shape the future of the monarchy amid ongoing public scrutiny and family tensions, the selection of his next principal private secretary will likely play a significant role in how Buckingham Palace navigates the years ahead.

This transition offers another reminder that while monarchs

may reign in public view, many of the decisions that shape history are influenced by the trusted advisers working quietly behind the scenes.

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