

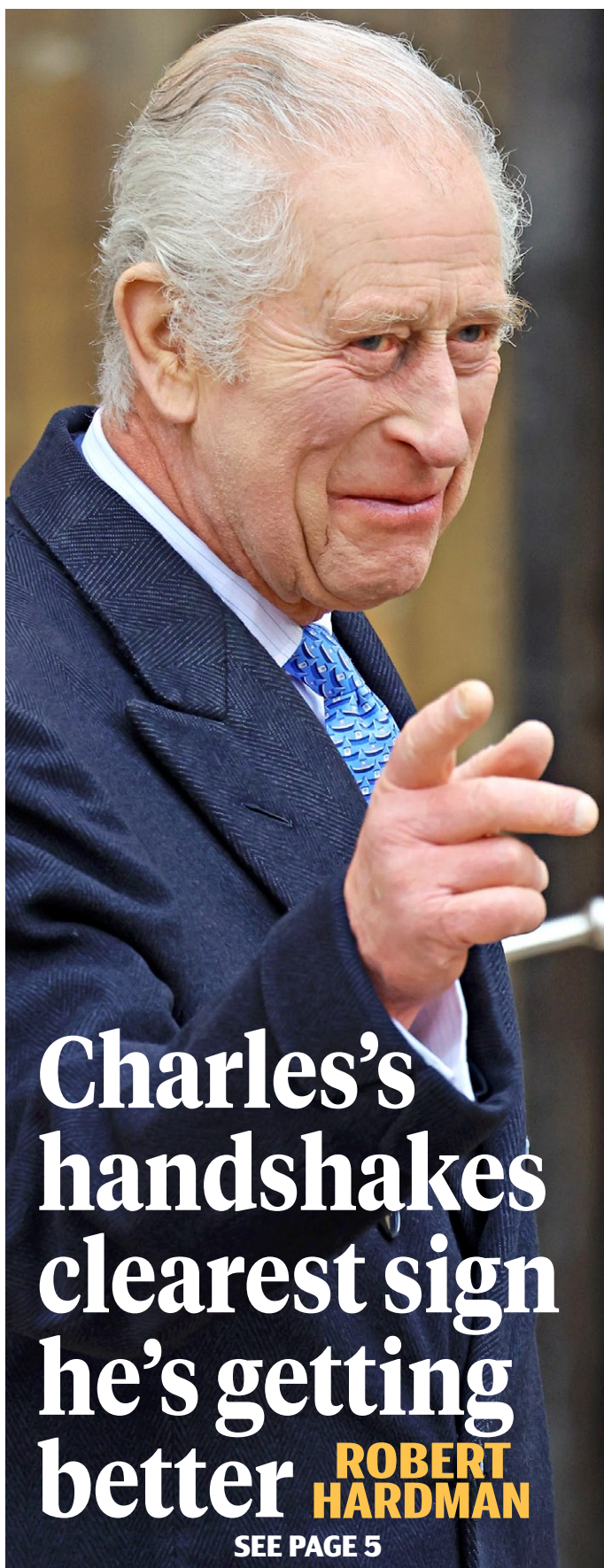


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250 NEEDLESS DEATHS EACH WEEK DUE TO AGONISING WAITS IN A&E

NHS crisis laid bare as Royal College report
warns over impact of hospital bed shortages

SOARING waits in A&E for hospital beds led to more than 250 needless deaths a week in England last year, a study suggests.

More than a million patients

By **Chris Pollard**

waited 12 hours or more for a bed after a decision had been made to admit them.

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) estimates one in 72 of those patients will have died because they were left in

A&E waiting rooms or on trolleys before a place on a ward became available. The figures – described as a conservative estimate – do not include the thousands of patients stuck in the back of ambulances who were also at risk of harm, the study says.

It comes as hospitals face a
Turn to Page 2