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Major new biography of Charles reveals Palace held talks over OBE recipients ditching reference to UK's colonial past

# MOVES TO DROP 'EMPIRE' FROM KING'S HONOURS

## ROYAL EXCLUSIVE

By **Glen Owen**

POLITICAL EDITOR

**RADICAL reforms** being considered by royal officials could see the word 'Empire' dropped from British honours.

Under the outline plans, those recognised with an OBE – Order of the British Empire – could instead choose to receive an Order of British Excellence. A parallel Order of Elizabeth has also been proposed in remembrance of the late Queen.

In both cases, the traditional, colonial-era titles would be retained for those who wanted to accept them.

Any alteration to the honours system would be down to Sir Keir Starmer's government. A newly updated biography of the King, by the Mail's Robert Hardman, quotes a senior Palace official saying: 'Any change is a matter for the government, but I think that they would find that this place was pretty open to the idea.' The

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## ROYAL BOOK SPECIAL

### Has Kate's illness led her to new interest in religion?

**ROBERT HARDMAN**  
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