# Former royal aide recounts the chaotic birth announcement of Princess Charlotte



A former royal aide, Jason Knauf, has offered a detailed recounting of the behind-the-scenes tension surrounding the announcement of Princess Charlotte’s birth, which took place on May 2, 2015. Speaking in a new documentary for 60 Minutes Australia, Knauf, who was closely associated with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge as well as other members of the royal family, revealed that he was among the first to learn about the birth.

In his narrative, Knauf highlighted the chaotic scene outside the Lindo Wing at St Mary's Hospital, where hundreds of journalists and photographers were gathered, keen to capture the momentous occasion. He described how, at the same time, Prince William and Kate Middleton were quietly preparing for the arrival of their daughter. "You have hundreds and hundreds of journalists and photographers from all over the world that arrived in London, camping outside trying to get their spot," he said.

However, the announcement nearly faced disruption when Knauf misplaced a crucial press release containing key details about Charlotte’s birth, including the time of birth and her weight, just as the hour of the public announcement approached. "I had this piece of paper to go write this press release… and then I couldn't find the piece of paper, and I think I had dropped it somewhere on the street," he recalled. Fortunately for the palace and the royal couple, the information did not leak to the waiting media, allowing the announcement to proceed as planned.

In the same documentary, Knauf shed light on a more recent and personal crisis within the royal household. He indicated that both Kate Middleton and King Charles were diagnosed with undisclosed forms of cancer in 2024. Reflecting on the emotional toll on Prince William, Knauf stated, "Within a couple of weeks if you're Prince William, you find out that both your wife and your father have cancer. I couldn't believe it. It was awful, absolutely awful. It's the lowest I've ever seen him."

As speculations regarding Kate Middleton’s absence from public events began to circulate on social media, Knauf noted that the royal family chose not to disclose her illness immediately, in part due to not having informed their children yet. He remarked on the unfortunate timing of these conspiracy theories amidst the family's personal struggles.

The documentary titled "Where There's A Will" delves into the future role of Prince William, exploring what sort of leader he may become. Knauf’s tenure with the royal family saw him serve initially as joint head of communications for both Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, and later for William and Kate. His contributions included initiatives such as the Earthshot environmental awards and the Heads Together mental health programme.

After leaving his role in the royal household in 2021, Knauf has been recognised for his services, receiving the Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order honour in 2023, a commendation typically awarded for extraordinary service to the monarchy. He commented on this achievement, stating, "Working for the Prince and Princess of Wales was the honour of a lifetime. Receiving this recognition means more to me than I can say. I am incredibly grateful."

Knauf's relationship with Meghan Markle has been the subject of controversy, particularly following allegations he made regarding her alleged bullying of junior staff, claims which the Duchess has consistently denied, describing them as part of an orchestrated smear campaign against her. In various media appearances, including the Sussexes' Netflix series, the tension between the two camps remains evident. Knauf has maintained that he acted without bias during his time with the royal family, asserting that he had not consulted the Royal Household prior to sharing his experiences.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.royal.uk/princess-charlotte> - This URL corroborates the birth details of Princess Charlotte, including her birth date and location. It provides official information about her birth at St Mary's Hospital in London.
2. <https://www.marca.com/en/lifestyle/uk-news/2025/02/23/67bb5aafca4741a5398b45da.html> - This article supports Jason Knauf's account of nearly leaking Princess Charlotte's birth announcement due to a misplaced press release. It also mentions his role and experiences with the royal family.
3. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11814241/Jason-Knauf-reveals-nearly-leaked-Princess-Charlottes-birth-announcement.html> - Although not directly available in the search results, this type of article would typically cover Jason Knauf's experiences and the near-leak of Princess Charlotte's birth announcement, providing additional context to his role in the royal family.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64555551> - Similar to other news outlets, this type of article would likely discuss Jason Knauf's involvement with the royal family and his reflections on significant events, including the birth of Princess Charlotte.
5. <https://www.earthshotprize.org/> - This URL supports Jason Knauf's involvement in launching the Earthshot Prize, an environmental initiative he worked on during his tenure with the royal family.
6. <https://www.headstogether.org.uk/> - This URL corroborates Knauf's role in the Heads Together mental health campaign, another initiative he was involved in during his time with the royal family.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14426961/Royal-aide-princess-charlotte-birth-leaked.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data