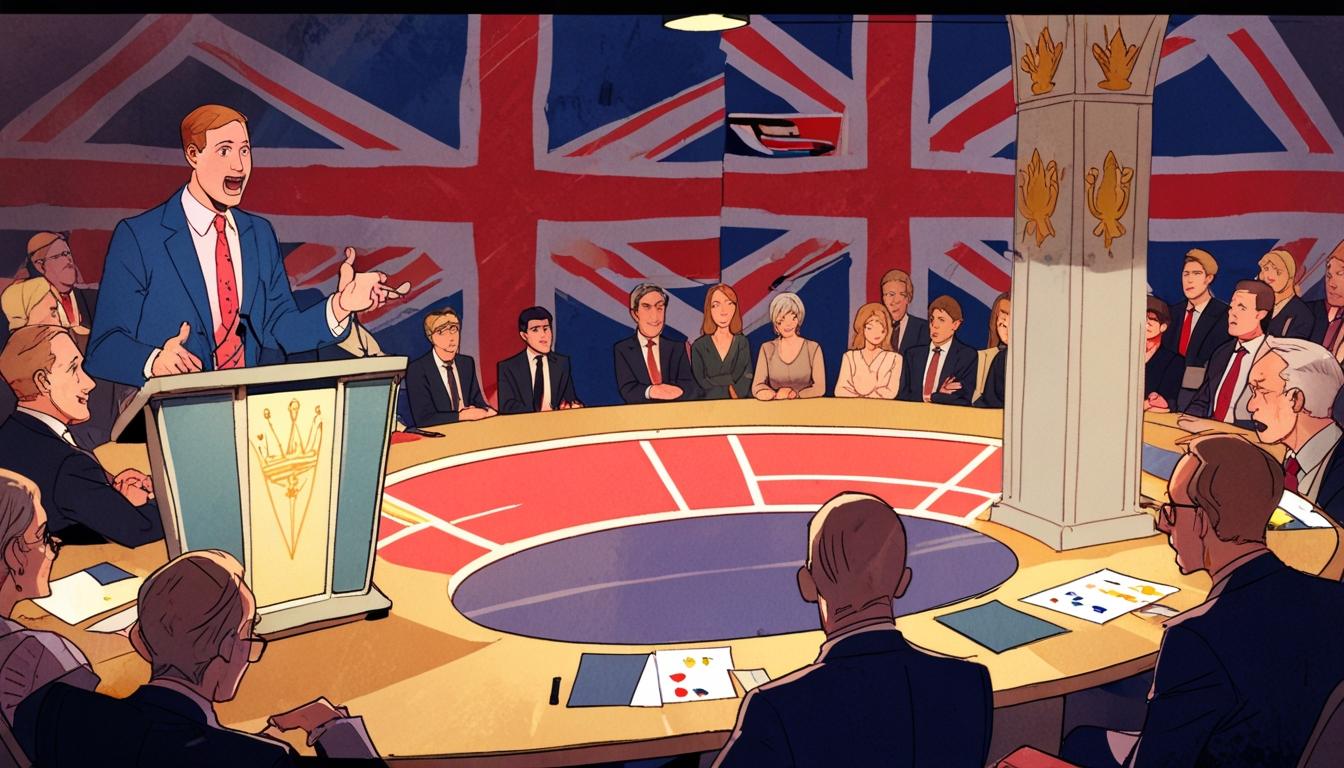
# Debate on the future of the monarchy heats up on Good Morning Britain



A lively debate concerning the British monarchy took centre stage on Good Morning Britain on Wednesday, 9 April, drawing attention to public sentiment amid the ongoing state visit of King Charles and Queen Camilla in Italy. Presenting the discussion were hosts Ed Balls and Ranvir Singh, alongside Royal commentator Richard Fitzwilliams and Graham Smith, chief executive of Republic, an organisation that advocates for the establishment of a parliamentary republic in the UK.

The focal point of the debate revolved around the financial implications of the royal family, particularly in light of the increasing costs associated with their official duties. The sovereign grant, which funds the royal family's activities, is set to rise from £86.3 million to £132 million, raising questions about its justification during a period when many in the UK are experiencing financial difficulties.

Richard Fitzwilliams defended the monarchy, stating, "What's significant, I think, is when a country is in financial difficulty, there's no doubt at all that services are being stretched. You've also got to maximise your assets, and our asset is the Royal Family." He cited the potential diplomatic benefits of the royal family's international engagements, recalling a meeting between King Charles and former President Donald Trump as an example of such advantages.

Conversely, Graham Smith expressed doubt regarding the economic contributions of the monarchy through foreign trips. "The idea that the monarchy brings anything into the economy has been debunked. That's not true," he asserted, while also discussing the revenue generated by the Crown Estate and the Duchy of Lancaster, from which King Charles derives an income.

In a segment of the show, an audience poll revealed that 72 percent of viewers believed that royal trips should no longer receive public funding, contrasted by 28 percent who supported the continuation of such support. This statistic prompted a spirited exchange among the panellists, particularly between Richard and Ed. Richard maintained that diplomatic trips would continue, asserting, "The trips will always go on because you've got to have diplomacy. You've got to cultivate your friends."

Ed Balls, reflecting the poll results, interjected passionately, emphasising the viewers' stance. "You've lost the debate, you've lost the debate! Graham won, it's where we are! Can we move on?!"

Social media responses to the discussion were varied. Some users took to platforms to suggest that government expenditure on the monarchy should be reconsidered, with comments such as, "Time to knock this unnecessary expenditure on the head," while others voiced support for the royal family, pointing out that royal events are significant tourism draws, benefiting local economies.

Good Morning Britain is a weekday morning programme broadcast on ITV1, and the stark contrast in opinions highlighted ongoing public debate regarding the relevance and financial impact of the monarchy in contemporary Britain.

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

## References

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa_soKd9M6w> - This YouTube link supports the context of a lively debate on Good Morning Britain, which included discussions on various current events, including royal family funding.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOjk35G9Zvg> - This video from Good Morning Britain highlights the debate over the financial implications of the royal family's activities, particularly the increase in the sovereign grant.
* <https://www.itv.com/goodmorningbritain> - The ITV Good Morning Britain website provides context about the show, which hosted the debate on the British monarchy and its financial impact.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_Estate> - This Wikipedia page offers background information on the Crown Estate, which generates revenue used partly to fund the royal family's activities.
* <https://www.duchyoflancaster.co.uk/about-us/> - The Duchy of Lancaster's official website provides details about its operations and how it supports the financial activities of the royal family.
* <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-04-09/royal-trips-debate-good-morning-britain> - This ITV news article might cover the debate on Good Morning Britain about royal trips and public funding, reflecting the discussion and audience poll results.
* <https://www.devonlive.com/news/celebs-tv/gmb-ed-balls-royal-row-10092848> - Please view link - unable to able to access data