# Sir Keir Starmer breaks royal protocol by touching Queen Camilla during VE Day ceremony



During a recent service commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, Sir Keir Starmer, the leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition, inadvertently breached royal protocol by touching Queen Camilla. The event took place at a military parade in central London, designed to honour the historic conclusion of World War II in Europe.

Footage from the event captured a moment where Queen Camilla was seated next to King Charles III, appearing to search for a water bottle. Sir Keir, noticing her discomfort, reached out and tapped the Queen's shoulder to alert her to the location of the bottle he had spotted. Subsequently, he leaned down to retrieve the bottle from beside the Queen’s seat and handed it to her.

Royal protocol typically stipulates that individuals should refrain from initiating contact with members of the Royal Family unless they are the ones to extend a hand or otherwise initiate physical interaction. Such rules are traditionally observed to maintain a level of formality and respect within royal engagements.

While the interaction appeared to stem from a place of helpfulness, it nonetheless sparked discussions regarding adherence to established protocols during official functions. The event highlights not only the intricate nature of royal etiquette but also the casual interactions that can occur in public settings.

As the nation reflected on the significance of VE Day, it serves as a reminder of the complexities involved in engagements with royal figures. The Express reported on this incident, capturing the unfolding moments during this notable commemoration.

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

## References

* <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/can-you-touch-the-queen-how-strict-is-royal-protocol-over-contact-with-the-monarch-a3592151.html> - This article discusses the strictness of royal protocol regarding physical contact with members of the Royal Family, emphasizing that individuals should refrain from initiating contact unless the Royal Family member extends their hand first.
* <https://www.businessinsider.com/how-etiquette-and-protocol-differ-for-royal-families-across-the-world-2020-4> - This piece highlights the differences in royal etiquette across various countries, noting that while British royal protocol prohibits touching members of the Royal Family, other royal families, like Spain's, have more relaxed approaches.
* <https://www.businessinsider.com/queen-elizabeth-broke-royal-protocol-rules-2019-9> - This article provides examples of instances where Queen Elizabeth II has broken her own royal protocol, including a notable occasion when she allowed Michelle Obama to place her arm around her during a meeting.
* <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/12/the-rules-for-touching-british-royals/383616/> - This article outlines the traditional rules for interacting with British royals, emphasizing that touching a member of the Royal Family beyond a formal handshake is considered a breach of protocol.
* <https://www.popsugar.com/celebrity/rules-about-touching-british-royal-family-42706698> - This article discusses the rules about physical contact with the British Royal Family, noting that while there are no official codes of behavior, many people choose to observe traditional forms, such as not initiating touch unless the Royal Family member does first.
* <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/europe/dont-touch-her-majesty-the-protocol-around-the-british-royals> - This article explains the protocol around the British royals, stating that it's best not to initiate personal physical contact with a member of the Royal Family and to wait for them to offer their hand first.
* <https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/2050879/keir-starmer-camilla-royal-protocol-VE-day> - Please view link - unable to able to access data