

Kate cancer bombshell

By **Sam Greenhill**
Chief Reporter

HARRY and Meghan led the messages of love and support which flooded in last night following the Princess of Wales' shock cancer diagnosis.

In a short statement two hours after the news broke, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex said: 'We wish health and healing for Kate and the family, and hope they are able to do so privately and in peace.' It is not clear when they were told the news.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hailed Kate's 'tremendous bravery'.

He condemned those who have spread conspiracy theories, adding: 'In recent weeks she has been subjected to intense scrutiny and has been unfairly treated by certain sections of the media around the world and on social media.'

'I know I speak for the whole country in wishing her a full and speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her back in action when she's ready.'

Well-wishers from around the world joined politicians, sports stars, celebrities and medics in sending messages of support, while cancer experts said Kate's powerful video message would undoubtedly help other families fighting the disease.

The NHS's chief executive, Amanda

Harry and Meghan lead messages of support from around the world

Pritchard, praised the princess, saying: 'We know how difficult a diagnosis and treatment journey can be for patients and their families. Speaking out about it is really brave and it can help others to get worrying signs and symptoms checked.'

Leading oncologist Professor Pat Price, chairman of Radiotherapy UK, said Kate was 'so brave', telling BBC News: 'She is amazing. Once [cancer] is caught early, that's usually when we can cure it.'

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer said she had 'the love and support of not just her whole family, but the whole nation too. I am heartened by The Princess of Wales' optimistic tone and message of faith and hope.'

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt said: 'Such incredibly tough news to break to three

young children – let's give them the space and privacy they need to protect their family and focus on getting better.' Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle sent well wishes on behalf of the House, adding that Kate's 'candour will make such a difference to all those facing this dreadful disease'.

At the White House, President Joe Biden's Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said: 'All of us just heard the terrible news.'

Addressing Kate by her previous title, she added: 'Our thoughts are with the Duchess of Cambridge and her family during this incredibly difficult time and certainly we wish her a full recovery.'

The new First Minister in Cardiff, Vaughan Gething, sent the 'love and support' of the people of Wales, while First Minister Humza

Yousaf said: 'I'm deeply saddened to hear the news. I am praying for her swift recovery.'

Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross said: 'I join people across the world in sending my best wishes to Her Royal Highness for a full and speedy recovery, following her dignified and courageous statement.'

'So many people will be able to relate to this situation because of their own experience with cancer, or that of a loved one.'

Northern Ireland's First Minister Michelle O'Neill also wished the princess 'a speedy recovery'. Former prime minister and Daily Mail columnist Boris Johnson tweeted: 'Wishing The Princess of Wales all possible strength and sending good wishes to her for a full and rapid recovery.'

Former Love Island contestant Dr Alex George, now a TV doctor campaigning on mental health issues who hosted a panel discussion with William and Kate last year, said: 'You were so amazing when I met you for World Mental Health Day. I wish you a speedy recovery.'

Dame Joan Collins said the nation will pray for the princess, adding: 'She was very brave to make the announcement herself.'

News sites across the globe cleared their front pages at the news. German tabloid Bild wrote 'Cancer!' in bold, while France's Paris Match website reported Britain was 'in shock'.

By **Meg Byrom**

TROLLS who fuelled conspiracy theories about the Princess of Wales were widely condemned last night.

Rishi Sunak called Kate's treatment on social media 'unfair' amid intense scrutiny about her private life while undergoing treatment for cancer.

And former BBC royal correspondent Jennie Bond told Sky News: 'I hope those social media trolls who are peddling such ghastly theories will realise what they have done.'

'Her absolute priority will be those three children.'

Royal fans came to Kate's defence online. One posted on X: 'I hope all you trolls feel terrible for starting all this false narrative over Princess Kate. Prayers for her and her health. Prayers for her family.'

Vicious speculation arose about Kate's

'More pain at a difficult time'

health following her planned but unspecified abdominal surgery in January. Rumours grew when Kensington Palace announced that Kate would not return to public duties until after Easter.

The speculation worsened after several news agencies pulled a Mother's Day portrait of the 42-year-old with her children due to concerns the image had been manipulated.

After weeks of invasive questioning about Kate's private life, a public sighting of the princess at a farm shop did not stop conspiracists who believed the Palace was covering up vital information. Some trolls believed that the pictures, taken by a member of the public, were faked or were of a body double.

The PA news agency last night confirmed that no edits were made to Kate's video message announcing her diagnosis, which was filmed by the BBC.

Dr Jay Verma, president of the GP Section at the Royal Society of Medicine, said: 'This is a difficult enough process for anyone without having to contend with constant speculation and what has been some outrageous conspiracy theories on social media.'

Those who had previously ped-

Shame of those vile web trolls who made it so much harder for Kate



Doctored: Kate's Mother's Day photograph with her children

Scobie's 'disgusting' alarm clock post



Author: Scobie

OMID Scobie last night posted a tasteless screenshot of an alarm clock set for 6pm – the exact time Kate released her cancer statement.

The Endgame author, 42, uploaded the photo at 4.59pm to his 132,000 followers on X.

Users criticised him for the post. One said: 'Disgusting

man. Literal shame on you.' Mr Scobie has since deleted the upload. He sparked a row last November when a translation of his book appeared to accuse Kate and King Charles of racism after Meghan Markle claimed 'concerns' had been raised about the skin colour of her son Archie.



Deleted: His post

dled conspiracies about the princess included some anti-monarchists. Left-wing commentator Owen Jones apologised for speculating about Kate

following a string of posts over recent weeks about her disappearance. He posted on X: 'As someone who speculated on this without considering it could be a

serious health condition, I'm very ashamed to be honest, and all the very best to her.'

American gossip site TMZ is also facing mounting pressure to

drop its 'poor taste' documentary titled Where is Kate Middleton, which aired in the US on Thursday night.

The show included comments from broadcaster Piers Morgan and Princess Diana's former butler Paul Burrell.

Royal experts say the trolls have caused the princess more pain at an already difficult time.

Royal historian Hugo Vickers told The Sun that those peddling misinformation should feel 'ashamed of themselves' and there was 'no doubt they are regretful that they've caused her more pain at a very difficult time'.

Several celebrities also weighed in on the malicious theories, including actress Blake Lively and TV presenter Andy Cohen.