

## No Extra Bank Holiday Despite Lionesses' Euro 2025 Triumph

July 28, 2025

— Categories: Politics & Government



England's Lionesses have secured back-to-back UEFA Women's European Championship titles after a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory over Spain in Basel. Despite public celebrations and an upcoming open-top bus parade in central London, Downing Street has confirmed that there will be no additional bank holiday to mark the win.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and senior government officials stated that no extra public holiday is planned, despite Starmer having previously expressed support for similar celebrations after major footballing achievements. Instead, the government has opted to extend pub licensing hours until 1 a.m., allowing fans and communities to celebrate the historic victory more freely.

Liberal Democrat MP Max Wilkinson has renewed calls for a public holiday, arguing that England retaining the European title warrants national recognition and could provide a boost to public morale and the hospitality industry. Public petitions have also emerged, reflecting strong support for the idea, but the government has maintained its position.

On the pitch, England came from behind after Spain took an early lead. Alessia Russo levelled the score, and after a tense period of extra time, England triumphed in the penalty shoot-out. Goalkeeper Hannah Hampton made two vital saves, while Chloe Kelly once again delivered in the decisive moment, calmly converting the winning penalty. Rising star Michelle Agyemang was named Young Player of the Tournament for her standout performances.

The Lionesses have received praise from across the political spectrum and the royal family. King Charles, Prime Minister Starmer, and leading sports figures have offered tributes. The team is scheduled to be honoured in a public celebration at Buckingham Palace before embarking on a parade along the mall, expected to draw large crowds of supporters.

While the lack of a bank holiday has disappointed some, the focus for many remains on the Lionesses' remarkable achievement. Winning back-to-back European titles places them among the most successful teams

in British sporting history. Their determination, skill, and unity have become a source of national pride.

The decision not to declare a public holiday will continue to generate debate, but few can deny the scale of the Lionesses' success. Their win has once again inspired millions and underscored the continued rise of women's football in the UK.