



Facts about the Royal Standard

The Royal Standard design is made up of four quarters. In the first quarter you will see the image of 3 lions that are called 'passant guardant lions'. A passant lion is walking with its right paw raised and the other 3 paws on the ground. This is intended to signify England. This is also repeated in the last quarter of the flag.

In the next quarter there is a 'rampant lion'. This lion is in profile standing up straight with both the front paws raised. This rampant lion is to signify Scotland.

In the third quarter there is an image of a harp and this image signifies Northern Ireland.

When The Queen is actually at one of her royal homes, or is on an official journey in her car or on her plane, then the Royal Standard is flown.

If The Queen comes to visit, the owner of the building that she is visiting can request to have the Royal Standard flown.

The only place where the Royal Standard can be flown when The Queen actually isn't there is Westminster Abbey. This is because Westminster Abbey is a 'royal peculiar' which means it is a place of worship that falls directly under the rule of the king or queen rather than under the rules of the bishop.

If you see the 'Union Flag', or the 'Union Jack' as it is sometimes called, being flown over Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle this tells you that The Queen is not there.

When The Queen attends the UK Parliament at the Palace of Westminster, the Royal Standard flies from Victoria Tower which is the square tower at the south-west end of the Palace of Westminster.



The Royal Standard