



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

Press Office

Threadneedle Street

London EC2R 8AH

T 020 7601 4411

F 020 7601 5460

press@bankofengland.co.uk

www.bankofengland.co.uk

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Withdrawal of Dickens £10 Note

In a news release on 29 April and in subsequent advertisements in the national and regional press, the Bank announced that it was withdrawing from circulation the older style £10 note, featuring Charles Dickens.

With effect from midnight on 31 July the £10 Dickens note will no longer be legal tender and will not be widely accepted in shops and other retail outlets.

Most banks, building societies and Post Offices will continue to accept the Dickens £10 notes for several months after the end of July but this will be at the discretion of the individual institution.

All Bank of England notes from which legal tender status has been withdrawn remain payable at face value forever at the Bank of England in London. Any such notes may be presented in payment either in person during business hours, or sent by post (at the sender's risk) to Exchanges, Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London.

More details are provided in the Bank's leaflet 'Withdrawal of £10 Dickens Banknote', copies of which are available, free of charge, by calling +44(0) 20 7601 4012. Information about the withdrawal of this note, and about all current series notes can also be obtained from the Bank's banknote pages on this website.

Notes to Editors

These notes are being withdrawn under authority given to the Bank by virtue of Section 1(5) of the Currency and Banknotes Act 1954.

'Legal tender' has a technical meaning in relation to the settlement of a debt. Simply, it means that if a debtor pays in legal tender the exact amount he or she owes under the terms of a contract, he or she has a good defence in law, if they are subsequently sued for non-payment of the debt. In practice the concept of 'legal tender' does not govern the acceptability of banknotes as a means of payment. This is essentially a matter for agreement between the parties involved.

The new design £10 banknote, featuring Charles Darwin on the reverse, was first issued on 7 November 2000. It incorporates three new security features first introduced on the new style £20 note (featuring Sir Edward Elgar) - a foil hologram, an ultraviolet feature and micro-lettering.

There are over 600 million £10 notes in circulation of which around 117 million are Dickens notes.