



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

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The new £10 note enters circulation

Today, Thursday 14 September, the Bank of England has issued the new £10 note. The note features the renowned novelist Jane Austen and is the first UK banknote with a tactile feature to support blind and partially sighted users. Just over one billion polymer £10 notes have been printed ready for issue and the public will begin to see them in the following days and weeks as the notes leave cash centres around the country and enter general circulation.

The new Jane Austen £10 joins the Churchill £5 in the first series of polymer Bank of England banknotes and a new £20 note featuring J.M.W Turner will follow in 2020.

Commenting on the introduction of the new £10 note, the Governor said: “Our banknotes serve as repositories of the country’s collective memory, promoting awareness of the United Kingdom’s glorious history and highlighting the contributions of its greatest citizens. The new £10 note celebrates Jane Austen’s work. Austen’s novels have a universal appeal and speak as powerfully today as they did when they were first published.

The new £10 will be printed on polymer, making it safer, stronger and cleaner. The note will also include a new tactile feature on the £10 to help the visually impaired, ensuring the nation’s money is as inclusive as possible.”

The new £10 note contains sophisticated security features which make it very difficult to counterfeit. It is expected to last at least 2.5 times longer than the current paper £10 notes – around 5 years – and stay in better condition during day to day use.

The series of raised dots in the top left-hand corner help blind and partially sighted users to identify the denomination of the note. This tactile feature is in addition to the elements already incorporated in Bank of England banknotes for vision impaired users; the tiered sizing, bold numerals, raised print and differing colour palettes.

Victoria Cleland, the Bank's Chief Cashier, said: "Today is an exciting day. It is wonderful to see the inspirational author Jane Austen celebrated on the new £10, and even more poignant being launched during the 200th anniversary of her death. I am grateful to the cash industry for their support in bringing the cleaner, safer, stronger notes to the public."

Paper £10 notes featuring Charles Darwin will be gradually withdrawn from circulation as they are banked by retailers and businesses. The public should continue to spend paper £10 notes as usual until legal tender status is withdrawn in spring 2018 with the exact withdrawal date announced at least three months in advance.

Further details about the new £10 note can be found on www.thenewten.co.uk

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Footnotes

1. Images of the new £10 note can be found on the Bank's [Flickr site](#)
2. A film introducing the new £10 note and its security features can be found on the Bank's [Youtube channel](#)
3. Footage of notes being printed and a downloadable version of the above film can be obtained by contacting the Bank's Press Office on press@bankofengland.co.uk
4. Victoria Cleland, the Chief Cashier, is available for interviews on and around the issue date. Please contact the Bank's Press Office with your request press@bankofengland.co.uk
5. The new £10 note was first unveiled on 18 July at Winchester Cathedral by the Governor. His remarks can be found on the Bank's website alongside the [press release](#).
6. The Bank consulted with the Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB) over the introduction of the tactile feature and ran focus groups with blind and partially sighted people to understand whether a tactile feature would be useful and what design would work best. The new £20 note will also have a tactile feature and the current £5 note is distinguishable by the absence of a tactile feature.
7. The cash industry has been working hard to facilitate machine readiness from 14 September for polymer £10 notes. This is a significant task involving tens of thousands of machines. It is likely that some machines will not be ready from day one. The Bank will continue to work with businesses to support a smooth transition and where necessary encourage them to communicate to their own customers about payment methods
8. A charity auction of Bank of England banknotes with low serial numbers will be held on Friday 6 October. The money raised will be donated to Haven House Children's Hospice, Macmillan Cancer Support and Candlelighters. The auction will be conducted by Spink and more details can be found on their [website](#).
9. A Snapchat geo-filter will be available in various locations across England on 14 and 15 September.
10. The first £10 was issued in 1759, printed only on one side and in black & white. The first £10 note to feature a portrait of the monarch came in 1964 and Florence Nightingale was the first character to be

portrayed on the back of a £10 note in 1975. There are currently 3.7 billion Bank of England banknotes in circulation, of which 801 million are £10s.

11. Security features on the new £10 note include:
 - a. A see-through window featuring the Queen's portrait.
 - b. Winchester Cathedral shown in gold foil on the front of the note and silver on the back.
 - c. A quill at the side of the window which changes from purple to orange.
 - d. A hologram which contains the word 'Ten' and changes to 'Pounds' when the note is tilted.
 - e. A hologram of the coronation crown which appears 3D and multi-coloured when the note is tilted.
 - f. A book-shaped copper foil patch which contains the letter JA.
 - g. Micro-lettering beneath the Queen's portrait with tiny letters and numbers that are visible under a microscope.
 - h. The words 'Bank of England' printed in intaglio (raised ink) along the top of the note.
12. The new £10 note design includes:
 - a. Portrait of Jane Austen. Commissioned by James Edward Austen Leigh (Jane Austen's nephew) in 1870. James wrote the first biography of Jane Austen, 'A Memoir', published in 1870, and her family authorised the creation of an engraving by William Home Lizars as the frontispiece. It was based on the original sketch of Jane Austen which was drawn by her sister, Cassandra Austen, now in the National Portrait Gallery collection (NPG 3630). Image courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London.
 - b. The quote – "I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading!" from *Pride and Prejudice* (Miss Bingley, Chapter XI).
 - c. An illustration of Miss Elizabeth Bennet undertaking "The examination of all the letters which Jane had written to her" – from a drawing by Isabel Bishop (1902-1988), who illustrated
 - d. E. P. Dutton & Company's 1976 edition of *Pride and Prejudice*. Copyright DC Moore Gallery, New York, representing the Estate of Isabel Bishop.
 - e. The image of Godmersham Park. Godmersham was home of Edward Austen Knight, Jane Austen's brother. Jane Austen visited the house often and it is believed that it was the inspiration for a number of her novels. Image courtesy of Jane Austen's House Museum, Jane Austen Memorial Trust.
 - f. Jane Austen's writing table – the central design in the background is inspired by the 12 sided writing table, and writing quills, used by Jane Austen at Chawton Cottage. The table belongs to Jane Austen's House Museum.
13. A range of free educational materials and our interactive banknote app can be found on the [Bank's website](#).
14. The Bank [announced](#) in March 2014 that it had entered into a contract with Innovia Security (now CCL Secure) to supply the polymer material for the next £5 and £10 banknotes.
15. The Bank [announced](#) in October 2014 that it had entered into a 10 year contract with De La Rue to print its banknotes at the Bank's facility in Debden, Essex.

16. The Bank [announced](#) in September 2015 that the next £20 note would be printed on polymer. The Bank is currently running a competitive tender for the supply of this polymer and expects to announce the outcome later this year.
17. £5 and £10 polymer banknotes have been awarded the Carbon Trust's Footprint Label for carbon footprint reduction. The label demonstrates that the Bank has accurately measured the carbon footprint of these denominations, and that over their full life cycle they will deliver carbon reduction benefits.
18. On 10 August, the Bank announced that after careful and serious consideration and extensive public consultation there would be no change to the composition of polymer used for future banknotes. The new polymer £20 note and future print runs of £5 and £10 notes will continue to be made from polymer manufactured using trace amounts of chemicals, typically less than 0.05%, ultimately derived from animal products.