



HM TREASURY

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

21st January 2010

Mr Williams

Information Rights Unit

By email:
request-24901-7ce16bb5@whatdotheyknow.com

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FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Ref: IRU 9/1033
email/22122/2009

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000:
ISLE OF MAN

Dear Mr Williams,

Thank you for your enquiry dated 19th December 2009, which we received on 21st December 2009, asking for information under the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act 2000.

2. You asked for the following.

... any policies or other documentation held on the status within the United Kingdom of banknotes issued by or with the authority of the Government of the Isle of Man.

In particular:

- 1) Are these "pound sterling" bank notes considered to form part of the currency base of the UK's sterling currency*
- 2) Any restrictions placed upon the Isle of Man as to the total value of banknotes that may be issued at any time*
- 3) Any restrictions placed upon the Isle of Man as to the designs of the island's banknotes*
- 4) Any requirement upon the island to back note issue with holdings of Bank of England notes or other securities*
- 5) Any obligation upon the United Kingdom to underwrite the value of banknotes issued by the island administration details of the total moneys received by the treasury as fines or penalty charges indicating which it is.*

3. HM Treasury does not hold information that answers your questions but in liaison with the Bank of England we offer the following.

4. May I first explain that the Isle of Man is a Crown Dependency. It does not form part of the United Kingdom ('UK') and has a high degree of domestic legislative and political autonomy.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

5. Isle of Man currency is not legal tender in the UK and banknotes issued by the Isle of Man do not form part of the currency base of the UK's sterling currency. Under UK law there are no restrictions placed upon the Isle of Man as to the total value of banknotes that may be issued at any time or on the design of notes issued. Moreover, under UK law, there is no requirement upon the island to back note issue with Bank of England notes or other securities. Nor is there any obligation upon the UK to underwrite the value of banknotes issued by the island's administration.

6. The issue of Isle of Man currency is governed by the laws of the Isle of Man. You may wish to write to the Isle of Man government in respect of your questions regarding the application of Manx law. Their contact details can be found on their website at www.gov.im.

7. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us at the email account given in the header to this letter. It would help us, if you could remember to quote the IRU reference number (also in the header) in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit
On behalf of HM Treasury

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review within 2 months of the date of this letter, setting out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied. The review request must be in writing to: HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or FOI.responses@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, they cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Treasury. The ICO can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

