

Mr Peter Wilson

020 7270 5000
foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

30 April 2020

Dear Mr Wilson

Ref: FOI2020/08029

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 1 April 2020 which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"As a result of the corona virus outbreak there is currently a decrease in demand for cash as many shops are closed. Furthermore I can imagine that as many people have to work from home, The Royal Mint may have had to decrease its production capacity. In this Freedom of Information Request I would like to request information related to the direct and indirect consequences of the corona virus outbreak on the circulation of coins.

Has HM Treasury as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak had to decrease or cancel existing orders at The Royal Mint for certain coins? If yes, for which denomination(s) and by how many was/were the order(s) decreased?

Is HM Treasury still planning to release 10 million Brexit 50p coins into general circulation? If not, how many will instead be released into general circulation?

Has HM Treasury as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak had to decide that any of the commemorative coins of 2020 that it was originally planning to release into general circulation, will not be released into general circulation but will only be sold to collectors? If so, what was the denomination and theme of each of these commemorative coins?

Has HM Treasury as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak had to decide that one or more planned commemorative coins of 2020 will not be released (neither into general circulation nor for collectors)? If so, what was the denomination and theme of each of these commemorative coins?

With 'as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak' I mean both direct and indirect consequences of the outbreak."

Following a search of our records, I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

HM Treasury has not decreased or cancelled orders it had placed at the Royal Mint for circulating UK coin before the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Any coins issued into circulation will meet demand for new 50p coins from the UK's banks and the Post Office. We continue to expect the 10 million coins produced to mark the UK's withdrawal from the European Union will be issued this year.

HM Treasury and The Royal Mint agree which coin designs will be issued into circulation each year, though whether coins with the agreed designs are issued is dependent on demand for the denomination bearing the design. HM Treasury has not asked The Royal Mint to change the designs to be issued in 2020 due to the Covid-19 outbreak. However, The Royal Mint may choose not to issue a particular design into circulation.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

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Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

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