



HM TREASURY

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

13th November 2009

Information Rights Unit

John Smith

By email:
request-21268-a7590648@whatdotheyknow.com

Tel: 0207 270 4558

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www.hm-treasury.gov.uk
FOI.responses@hm-treasury.gsi.gov.uk

Ref: IRU9/874
email/21764/2009

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000:
UNITED KINGDOM CURRENCY

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for your enquiry dated 19 October 2009 asking for information under the Freedom of Information (Fol) Act 2000 (the 'Act').

2. You asked:

- is the currency in circulation a product of the Bank of England?
- is the currency in circulation foreign?
- is the Bank of England a foreign jurisdiction?

3. In response to these questions I can inform you that the Bank of England has responsibility for the issuing of all Bank of England banknotes in the UK and the Royal Mint has responsibility for the issuing of all UK circulating coinage. The currency in circulation is neither foreign nor is the Bank of England a foreign jurisdiction. A small number of Scottish and Northern Irish banks have also been granted the legal right to issue banknotes.

4. For background you may wish to look at the Coinage Act 1971 and the Bank Charter Act 1844, as well as, more generally, the Bank of England and Royal Mint websites, the web links to which I have included below for your ease of reference.

<http://www.statutelaw.gov.uk/content.aspx?ActiveTextDocId=1404903>

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/RevisedStatutes/Acts/ukpga/1844/cukpga_18440032_en_1

www.bankofengland.co.uk

www.royalmint.com

5. Although you cited the Freedom of Information Act in relation to your enquiries, I need to explain that the Act provides a general right of access to recorded information. Whereas, the enquiry you have made has asked a number of questions, which we have answered above. So as to assist you, should you wish to make an Fol request in future, you may find the following guidance from the Information Commissioner helpful.

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/practical_application/fop100_how_to_make_a_request_v1.pdf

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/practical_application/its_public_information_foi%20charter_final.pdf



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6. 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 by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email FOI.responses@hm-treasury.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

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



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