



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

22 February 2018

The Darwin £10 is almost extinct – just one week to go

The Bank of England will withdraw legal tender status of the paper £10 note featuring Charles Darwin at 23:59 on Thursday 1 March and is encouraging anyone who still has any to use them in the next week. Over 73% of £10 notes in circulation are polymer, but there are still around 211 million paper £10 notes left in circulation. Put end to end, that's enough notes to retrace almost half of Darwin's journey on HMS Beagle. Or, these would weigh the same as nearly two thousand giant Galápagos tortoises that Darwin saw on his travels.

After 1 March 2018, the new polymer note featuring Jane Austen will be the only £10 note with legal tender status. Some banks and building societies may accept paper £10 notes after 1 March but this is at their own discretion. Most retailers will no longer accept the paper £10 note as payment. The Bank of England will continue to exchange Darwin £10 notes for all time, as it would for any other Bank of England note which no longer has legal tender status.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. For interviews related to the £10 note, please contact the Press Office on press@bankofengland.co.uk
2. The current Darwin £10 note was first issued on 7 November 2000.
3. As at close on 16 February 2018, 73.4% of £10 notes in circulation were polymer £10 notes. The value of paper £10s in circulation is around £2,109 million, the equivalent of around 211 million paper £10 notes.
4. Images of banknotes can be downloaded from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bankofengland/albums/72157662787666013>
5. Bank of England banknotes retain their value for all time and can be exchanged in person or by post: <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/Pages/about/exchanges.aspx>
6. The Darwin notes are being withdrawn under authority given to the Bank by virtue of Section 1 (5) of the Currency and Banknotes Act 1954.

7. Legal tender has a limited legal definition, for an explanation see:
<http://edu.bankofengland.co.uk/knowledgebank/what-is-legal-tender/>



BANK OF ENGLAND

Make sure
you use your
paper £10 notes



You can
spend them



Or you can
swap them
at your bank



The Bank of England
will always exchange
your old banknotes

even after 1 March

