

How to identify a counterfeit note

If your business accepts cash for goods or services, staff will need to be aware of the possibility of counterfeit notes. It is likely that your bank will identify notes presented to them as counterfeit, so to protect your bottom line it pays to be vigilant.

It is a criminal offence to keep or pass on a note that you know to be counterfeit.

The Bank of England says if you 'have a note that you believe is a counterfeit you must take it to the police as soon as you can. They will provide you with a receipt and send the counterfeit to the Bank for analysis. If the note is genuine reimbursement will be made in full.'

The Bank of England recommends a number of areas to check:-

- Check the feel of the paper
- Check the raised print areas
- Check the metallic thread
- Check the watermark
- Check the foil features
- Check the ultra-violet features (not on the £50s)
- Check the Microlettering (not on £50s)
- Check the see-through register (on new-style £20s only)

For more information and security advice in relation to bank notes, visit the Bank of England website <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/security/index.htm>

Various supporting literature is available free of charge to help businesses to recognise genuine banknotes.

Security features <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/security/index.htm>

£5 http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/security/security_5.htm

£10 http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/security/security_10.htm

Old-style £20 http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/security/security_20.htm

New-style £20 http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/security/new_security_20.htm

£50 http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/security/security_50.htm

Virtual tour http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/virtualtour/virtual_tour_flash.htm

Educational Material <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/educational.htm>

If you are concerned that your business is at risk from fraud or you have been a victim and would like some free and impartial advice on how to protect your business in the future, contact the Business Crime Reduction Centre on 01142751283.