

Reproducing images of our banknotes

Applicants should note that it is a criminal offence (under section 18 of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981) for any person to reproduce a banknote of The Royal Bank of Scotland, without prior consent from The Royal Bank of Scotland. This applies to:

- All present and past note issues of The Royal Bank of Scotland itself.
- All post 1708 note issues of banks acquired by The Royal Bank of Scotland. Confirmation of whether a particular bank is covered may be obtained by emailing archives@rbs.co.uk.
- All reproductions on any substance and on any scale, including modified or distorted reproductions.
- Reproductions of any part of a banknote, whether the front or back and whether all or part of the note is visible.

These restrictions and conditions are designed to avoid bringing The Royal Bank of Scotland's notes into disrepute and to prevent any reproductions of our notes from being mistaken for genuine banknotes.

Applying for permission

Applications for permission to reproduce will generally only be considered if they are compliant with the guidelines below. Applicants should note that permission might be withheld entirely, for reasons that The Royal Bank of Scotland is not obliged to disclose. If granted, permission is entirely at the discretion of the Bank and may be revoked at any time.

Applications, on the official Banknote Reproduction Application Form, should be sent to archives@rbs.co.uk, or by post to:

RBS Archives
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
6 South Gyle Crescent Lane
Edinburgh EH12 9EG

Queries concerning banknote reproduction should be sent to archives@rbs.co.uk, or by post to RBS Archives at the above address.

Reproduction guidelines

Reproductions must be one-sided only. Nothing may appear on the reverse of a reproduction that might give the impression that the reproduction is a genuine banknote.

Reproductions must not be the same size as actual banknotes. Smaller reproductions must be less than 50% as long and wide. Larger reproductions must be more than 150% as long and wide. This applies whether the entire banknote is reproduced or just part.

Reproductions must be printed on a material clearly different and distinguishable from paper or paper-like material

Or

must show no more than 50% of the area of one side of the original banknote

Or

must be shown obliquely, rather than flat to camera. The distortion should be such that right angles are reduced to acute angles of 70° or less, or increased to obtuse angles of 110° or more

Or

must differ distinctly from the main colours used on any of the current series of The Royal Bank of Scotland banknotes.

Reproductions that are flat to camera must be overprinted with the word SPECIMEN twice in solid black capital letters; once from the bottom left corner to the top centre and again from the bottom centre to the top right corner of the banknote. The word SPECIMEN must be at least 30% of the length of the reproduction and not less than 10% of the height of the reproduction. This applies whether the entire banknote is reproduced or just a part of it.

Digital images on websites or CD-ROMs should be reproduced at a maximum on-screen resolution of 72 dpi. Applicants should make every effort to ensure that it is not possible to copy or otherwise extract, manipulate or alter the digital image in the normal course of using the product except to print images for educational use or private study.

Reproductions must not appear in an offensive context.

All negative plates, digitised storage media, graphic files, optical storage devices and any other storage medium used in the making of the reproduction or that contain an image of the reproduction must be destroyed or deleted after their final use.

The above guidelines may in part be waived for:

- Photographs, drawings, paintings, films and other types of image which do not provide a close-up view of the banknote designs and in which the focus is not the banknote.
- Flat-to-camera reproductions in contexts for which overprinting with the word SPECIMEN is deemed unnecessary by the Bank.
- Reproductions of historic banknotes.

Until you receive written consent, you are not entitled to reproduce all or part of any banknote of The Royal Bank of Scotland. Where consent is granted, it will only be granted for a specific medium and specific date or period, normally for up to 6 months. Renewals of consents are available by contacting RBS Archives.

Artwork showing the reproduction must be provided to, and approved by, The Royal Bank of Scotland following consent being given for the reproduction and prior to actual publication or distribution. Use of The Royal Bank of Scotland's name in association with the reproduction of its banknotes is not permitted, unless specifically requested by the Bank. The Royal Bank of Scotland is not liable for any consequences of granting permission to reproduce its banknotes and reserves the right to amend or revoke these guidelines at any time.

Summary of what you have to do

Ensure your proposed reproduction is compliant with the reproduction guidelines.



Apply for permission from RBS Archives on the official application form and await written authorisation.



After permission is received, develop artwork for the reproduction.



Send artwork to RBS Archives and await written approval.



After approval is received, publication may proceed.

All materials used to make the reproduction must be destroyed following publication.