

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING WITHDRAWN FORINT BANKNOTES

### **1. Until when and where can I exchange old forint banknotes after the date of withdrawal?**

Cash offices in credit institutions (banks, cooperative banks) and post offices will exchange old forint banknotes to legal tender free of charge for 3 years following the date of withdrawal. However, it should be noted, that the obligation to exchange notes free of charge means exclusively the change of the withdrawn banknote denomination to legal tender. Thus, for example an old 20,000 forint banknote may only be exchanged to a new 20,000 forint banknote free of charge. If the client wishes to have the exchange in different denominations, that qualifies as exchange of denominations, therefore the credit institution or the post office may charge a fee applied for that service. The exchange may be initiated in all credit institutions and post offices that have a cash office. It cannot be made a condition of the exchange that the client should have a payment account held by the service provider, or use their service in any other way. For the exchange of withdrawn banknotes to renewed notes of the same denomination there is no quantity restriction for 3 years from the time of withdrawal, but the details of the payment can be determined by the credit institutions and the post office in their terms and conditions of business. Following the three-year period the credit institution and the post office shall not be obliged to exchange the withdrawn banknotes, but the conditions and possibility of exchange might be specified in their own terms and conditions of business. [MNB Decree 19/2019. \(V. 13.\)](#) contains the regulations and conditions of the exchange of denominations and banknotes withdrawn from circulation. This is accessible on the MNB's website on the page entitled Banknotes and Coins.

<http://www.mnb.hu/en/banknotes-and-coins/regulatory-environment>

The possibility of exchange of the old forint bank notes to legal tender will still be open after the three-year period granted by credit institutions and the post office, as the MNB will exchange the withdrawn banknotes for another 20 years after the date of withdrawal at its retail cash office (1 Kiss Ernő utca, distr V, Budapest).

### **2. How many banknotes can be exchanged in one transaction and under what conditions? Can credit institutions and the post office set limitations in that regard?**

Credit institutions and the post office are obliged to exchange banknotes withdrawn from circulation in all their branches with a cash office for 3 years following the withdrawal free of charge and without quantity restriction. The obligation to perform a free-of charge exchange means the change of banknotes withdrawn from circulation to banknotes of the same denomination. Obviously in practice certain branch offices of credit institutions and post offices might not be able to do the free-of-charge exchange immediately due to the limitations affecting the available banknotes in stock. Therefore, to ensure smooth customer service and the stock required to perform the exchange credit institutions and the post office - to the extent as specified in their terms and conditions of business - might apply such solutions as the need to submit a request to have bigger quantities of banknotes exchanged beforehand. Credit institutions and the post office are required to put up clearly visible information boards regarding the exchange of banknotes withdrawn from circulation, as well as provide information to clients on their websites. Credit institutions and the post

office are obliged to act in accordance with the applicable legislation if there is a suspicion of a crime regarding the banknotes to be exchanged, such as money laundering. Following the three-year period the credit institution and the post office shall not be obliged to exchange withdrawn banknotes, but they can provide the means for exchange in their own terms and conditions of business specifying its terms.

### **3. Can I only exchange the banknotes in credit institutions I am already a client of (e.g. in the bank where I have an account)?**

Withdrawn banknotes can be exchanged in any credit institution branch that has a cash office for three years following the date of withdrawal. During this period credit institutions and the post office cannot set holding a payment account with them as the pre-condition of the exchange, or the use of their service.

### **4. Can I exchange old notes I have in credit institutions and at the post office before the date of withdrawal?**

This is not regulated by the MNB, as old banknotes qualify as legal tender until the date of withdrawal, therefore they can be used during cash payments without restrictions. As a result, between the time of putting new banknotes of a certain denomination into circulation and the date of withdrawal of the old banknotes of the same denomination, in the so-called parallel distribution period, credit institutions and the post office may operate following their own terms and condition of business in this regard. In the event of such request it is recommended that clients turn to their credit institution maintaining their account, or make an inquiry at the local post office.

### **5. How many banknotes can I exchange at the cash office of the central bank?**

There are no quantity restrictions to the exchange of the withdrawn banknotes, however, if large volumes of banknotes (more than 1000 pieces) are to be exchanged, it must be reported by sending an email to [penzta@mn.hu](mailto:penzta@mn.hu) or placing a call to +36-1-4282650. From the time of the announcement the MNB will exchange the banknotes withdrawn from circulation free of charge and without any quantity restrictions for another 20 years following the date of withdrawal. The MNB will exchange the old forint banknotes at its retail cash office (1 Kiss Ernő utca, distr V, Budapest) during the following opening hours: <http://www.mnb.hu/en/banknotes-and-coins/cashier-services-for-generalpublic/contact-us>

### **6. Is it in conflict with any legislation to use old banknotes for payment following the date of withdrawal?**

Banknotes withdrawn from circulation lose their capacity as legal tender on the date of withdrawal, thus from that time onwards nobody is obliged to accept them during cash payment in shops. Nonetheless, there is no legislation in effect prohibiting the acceptance of withdrawn banknotes as payment. Accordingly, enterprises – in line with their own business policy – may freely make decisions whether they accept withdrawn banknotes from their clients or not.

## 7. Can retailers reject the acceptance of withdrawn banknotes?

Yes, they can. From the date of withdrawal old banknotes do not qualify as legal tender, thus they may be rejected as payment. Retailers may decide of their own accord to accept old banknotes following the date of withdrawal.

Date of withdrawal	Date of exchange	Denomination
31 December 2019	31 December 2039	
31 October 2019	31 October 2039	
31 October 2018	31 October 2038	
31 December 2017	31 December 2037	
31 July 2017	31 July 2037	
31 July 2017	31 July 2037	
16 November 2009	16 November 2029	
31 August 2007	31 August 2027	