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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி  
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

RTI 04

**Decision to Provide Information**

Dr. Kavan U Ratnatunga  
13, Vihara Road  
Mount Lavinia.

Registration Number of the Request: 0012/18

Date Request Received: 19.03.2018

Name of the public authority: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

This is to inform you that in accordance with Section 25 (1) of the Act we have decided to provide you with the information requested by you through application dated 19.03.2018 with the registration number of 0012/18 as follows.

In terms of section 58 of the Monetary Law Act, any person without the authority of the Monetary Board, mutilates any currency note, prints, draws anything upon any currency notes or affixes any seal upon such notes shall be guilty of an offence. Once the aforesaid activities (whether significant/minimal) are recognized as offences in terms of law, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), being the sole issuer of such notes is not in a position to issue any guideline to the general public specifying the level of acceptability of such mutilated/defaced/alterd or graffiti-drawn currency notes.

However, the focus of the CBSL in the above implementation is on the willfully mutilated, altered and defaced currency notes which negatively impact the identification of security features of the currency notes. Hence, currency notes with inadvertent small marks may continue to be exchanged among the general public.

All Licensed Commercial Banks (LCBs) have been informed on the parameter/guidelines to detect such currency notes. The purpose of issuing such guidelines to LCBs is purely to calibrate their currency processing machines/equipment. Further, the issued parameter contains several technical specifications and terminology which may not be measurable and understood by the general public. Therefore, it may not be practicable to specify such technical aspects to the general public in order for them to take appropriate decisions. The parameter/guidelines issued to LCBs to calibrate currency processing machines to detect willfully mutilated, altered and defaced currency notes is given below.

- a. Currency notes defaced with drawings, words, numbers, signs or symbols where the serial number, date, signature, value, or security feature of the currency note has been altered in any significant way and/or;
- b. Willfully mutilation, alteration and defacement in the currency note exceeds the below area.

Denomination (Rs)	Watermark Area (mm)	Printed Area (mm)
20	10 X 10	15 X 15
50	10 X 10	15 X 15
100	10 X 10	15 X 15
500	10 X 10	15 X 15
1000	10 X 10	15 X 15
5000	10 X 10	15 X 15

Further, we would like to inform you that CBSL has issued a press release on 29.03.2018 to avoid misconception among the general public in accepting currency notes with inadvertent minor marks and has clearly explained that the currency notes with small dot or a line are not considered as willfully mutilated currency notes and can be further used for transactions.

CBSL has also initiated further awareness programmes structured in a way that avoid misconception among the general public.

Designated Officer-

Name: Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy

Designation: Governor

Address: Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No. 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01

Contact details: 011-2477577

Email: [rti@cbsl.lk](mailto:rti@cbsl.lk)

Yours faithfully,



Information Officer

Name: Dr. P N Weerasinghe

Designation: Senior Deputy Governor

Date: 08.05.2018