

4 April 2025

IC-369207-K7J5

## **Request**

"Has the ICO reviewed the privacy impact of the digital pound?

Will digital pound transactions be anonymous or fully trackable?

Will the government have real-time access to individual transaction data?

Will third-party companies be able to access or monetize digital pound data?

What legal safeguards will exist to prevent mass financial surveillance?

Could digital pound accounts be frozen or seized without court orders?"

We received your request on 11 March 2025.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

## **Our response**

We do not hold the requested information.

However, we are able to offer the following information as advice and assistance.

The Bank of England (BoE) and HM Treasury (HMT) are leading on policy development for the digital pound, so the best source of information to answer your questions would be those organisations. See, for example:

[Progress update: The digital pound and the payments landscape | Bank of England](#)  
[National Payments Vision - GOV.UK](#)

The ICO engaged with BoE and HMT in relation to the following:

[Response to the Bank of England and HM Treasury Consultation Paper – The digital pound: A new form of money for households and businesses? | Bank of England](#)

[The digital pound: A new form of money for households and businesses? | Bank of England](#)

This engagement involved framing and factual checks on points of data protection law, and did not address the policy points raised by your questions.

There will be a statutory duty for the BoE and HMT to consult with the ICO when they have more developed proposals, under Article 36(4) of the UK GDPR.

Our views on the digital pound can be found in the following publicly available information:

[Economic Affairs Committee evidence](#)

[ICO response to the Economic Affairs committee inquiry](#)

[The Information Commissioner's response to the Bank of England and HM Treasury's consultation on a Central Bank Digital Currency \(CBDC\) | ICO](#)

We published a chapter on central bank digital currencies in our 2024 Tech Horizons report:

[Central bank digital currencies \(CBDCs\) | ICO](#)

**Next steps**

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full [review procedure](#) on our website.

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint](#) through our website.

## Your information

Our [privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and sets out [your rights](#). Our [Retention and Disposal Policy](#) details how long we keep information.

Yours sincerely



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