

Different types of basic bank accounts

This table shows which banks and building societies offer basic bank accounts and what services you can expect to get.

All these accounts accept Automated Credit Transfer (ACT) payments, offer cash withdrawals at the Post Office, and a cash-machine card. None of them offer a cheque book.

If you are opening a new bank account, you should check to make sure it is not linked to your current bank account or any of your unsecured creditors.

| Bank name and any special name for the account Symbols denote accounts that are linked | Minimum age to open an account | Minimum amount to open an account | Free buffer zone | Direct debits and standing orders | Charge for unpaid direct debit ¹ | Charge for unpaid standing order ¹ | Debit card (Connect, Solo, Electron or Maestro) | If any of the following apply to you, your application may be declined | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Abbey: basic account | √ | 16 | None | No | Yes | £5 – 35 check with bank | £5 – 35 check with bank | No | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Alliance & Leicester: Basic Cash Account | √ | 16 | None | No | Direct debits only | £25 | No standing orders | No | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Bank of Ireland: Basic Cash Account (only available in Northern Ireland) | ❖ | 16 | None | No | Yes | £38 ³ | £38 | No | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Bank of Scotland: Easycash | X | 16 | None | £10 | Yes | £15 | £15 | Yes | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Barclays: Cash Card Account | ◆ | 18 ² | None | No | Yes | £8 | £8 | Yes | Record of fraud |
| Clydesdale: Readycash | ● | 16 | None | No | Yes | £35 | £35 | Yes | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Co-operative Bank: Cashminder | Y | 16 | None | No | Yes | £19.50 ³ | £19.50 | Yes | Record of fraud |
| First Trust Bank: Basic Bank Account | ⌘ | 16 | None | £10 | Direct debits only | £35 | No standing orders | No | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud, record of bad debts |
| Halifax: EasyCash | X | 16 | None | £10 | Yes | £15 | £15 | Yes | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| HSBC: Basic Bank Account | ○ | 18 | None | £10 | Yes | No ³ | No | No | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Lloyds TSB: Cash Account | □ | 18 ² | None | £10 | Yes | £20 (max 3 per day) | £20 (max 3 per day) | Yes | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Nationwide Building Society: Flex Cash Card | ⊠ | 16 | None | No | Yes | £30 | £30 | No | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Natwest: Step Account | # | 16 | None | No | Yes | £38 ⁴ | £38 ⁴ | Yes | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Northern Rock: Northern Personal Access | ● | 14 | None | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud, record of bad debts |
| The Royal Bank of Scotland: Key Account | # | 16 | None | No | Yes | £38 ⁴ | £38 ⁴ | Yes | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Ulster Bank: Step Account | # | 16 | None | No | Yes | £30 | £30 | Yes | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |
| Yorkshire Bank: Readycash | ● | 16 | None | No | Yes | £35 | £35 | Yes | Undischarged bankrupt, record of fraud |

Source: British Bankers' Association, April 2009

This information is correct at time of print, but is subject to change. Please check with your chosen bank or building society.

Explanatory notes

¹ Correct at time of publication but always check with the bank or building society

² 16 and 17 year-olds can open a similar account

³ The account may be closed if a direct debit is refused three times

⁴ Bank may cancel SOs/DDs if you don't have enough money in your account to pay them on more than one occasion