



MEDIA ALERT

7 January 2003

UK CHIP AND PIN PROGRAMME: NEW PRESS OFFICE GOES LIVE

From 7 January 2003 a new Chip and PIN press office will be operational at public relations company, Four Communications plc. The Chip and PIN programme sees the banking industry and retailers coming together to introduce a lasting solution to the major problem of plastic card fraud.

The Chip and PIN programme will see magnetic strips on credit and debit cards replaced with a smart chip and by 2005 all UK credit and debit card transactions will be authorised by customers keying in a four-digit PIN rather than signing a receipt.

The press office will issue information on the Chip and PIN programme as it develops through 2003 and 2004 and will provide answers to journalist inquiries. The press office is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Contact details are:

Telephone: 0870 442 7898
Fax: 0870 442 7899
e-mail: chipandpin@fourplc.com

Christine Jewell, mobile 07909 925 048
Einir Williams, mobile 07973 159 918
Mike Pooley, mobile 07881 622 742
Rachel Hall, mobile 07979 813 907
Nan Williams, mobile 07774 741 518
Ray Eglington, mobile 07973 893 208

The timetable for news announcements is likely to begin in the first couple of months of 2003 with the details of the first UK trial of Chip and PIN including confirmed participants and dates. During the spring of 2003 the trial itself will be launched.

To register your interest in these announcements and other news, please phone or email us. Please also let us know what angles you are particularly interested in and how you would like to be contacted.

For background information, FAQs and news releases as they are issued, go to www.chipandpin.co.uk