

News release



One month in...update on the chip and PIN Northampton trial

One month on since the chip and PIN trial started in Northampton, the Chip and PIN Programme has released the first official update statistics. Having started in May, the trial is building throughout June and July with new cards being issued and retailers switching on throughout the period. At its peak, it is expected that 210,000 credit and debit cards will have been issued and over 1,000 retailers will be taking part.

Update at 16 June 2003

FACT	FIGURE
Number of chip and PIN cards issued to people living in Northampton postcodes NN1 to NN7	More than 150,000
Total number of new cards expected to be issued during the trial	Around 210,000
Number of ATMs upgraded to provide PIN services * for chip and PIN cards	More than 130
Total number of chip and PIN transactions performed in the trial	Approx. 18,000
Number of shops switched onto chip and PIN	Almost 500
Total number of shops expected to switch on in the trial	Over 1,000
Large retailers already involved in the trial	Asda, Safeway
Percentage of all transactions in Safeway's central Northampton store made by chip and PIN	10 per cent
Sectors involved in the trial to date include	Restaurants, pubs, clothes shops, electronics, grocery, opticians, entertainment, telecoms, hairdressing, sport, florists and jewellers
Number of weeks of the trial to date	Four

*** Pin services will enable cardholders to change their designated PIN to one of their choosing at a cash machine.**

More/...

“The trial is going well and to plan and we’re learning valuable lessons,” says Jemma Smith of APACS. “While there have been no significant hiccups, we are seeing how consumers are responding and how different equipment is working in different retail environments. The banks, retailers and equipment manufacturers are all learning from Northampton to refine plans for the national rollout.”

“Consumers are taking to the new system well,” says David Smith of the British Retail Consortium. “We are particularly pleased how customers of all ages seem to enjoy the simple new system and its fraud-busting benefits. However, we are not complacent and we are taking time to understand particular concerns that people have such as privacy issues and the difficulty some people have in remembering their PIN numbers.”

Over the coming weeks, a host of well-known high street names will be joining the trial including Marks & Spencer, Texaco, Morrisons, WHSmith, McDonalds and River Island.

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For further information please contact:

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Notes to editors:

- The Chip and PIN Programme is an initiative backed by the UK’s banks, card companies, building societies and retailers, co-ordinated by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and the Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS). They have joined forces to combat the serious problem of card fraud in the UK.
- The programme is part of a global initiative to cut fraud. Many other countries in Europe and around the world are planning to implement the chip and PIN system, which is built to an international standard.
- The Chip and PIN Programme continues to consult with the Disability Rights Commission to consider the needs of cardholders with disabilities