

## National Providers of Basic Bank Accounts

**Abbey:** Basic Account

0845 7654321, or visit your nearest branch

**Alliance & Leicester:** Basic Cash Account

0800 068 6069, or visit your nearest branch

**Bank of Scotland:** Easycash

08458 50 55 25, or visit your nearest branch

**Barclays:** Cash Card Account

0800 400 100, or visit your nearest branch

**Clydesdale:** Cashmaster

contact any Clydesdale Bank branch or call into your local Post Office™ branch

**Co-operative Bank:** Cashminder

08457 212 212, or visit you nearest branch

**First Trust Bank:** Basic Bank Account

028 9034 6160, or visit your nearest branch

**Halifax:** Easycash

08458 50 55 25, or visit your nearest branch

**HSBC:** Basic Bank Account

0800 130 130, or visit your nearest branch

**Lloyds TSB:** Cash Account

0845 3000 000, or visit your nearest branch

**Nationwide Building Society:** Flex Cash Card

08457 30 20 10, or visit your nearest branch

**NatWest:** Step Account

08457 30 20 10, or visit your nearest branch

**The Royal Bank of Scotland:** Key Account

0808 100 0808, or visit your nearest branch

**Yorkshire Bank:** Readycash

Please visit you local branch.

**Norwich and Peterborough Building Society:**

0845 300 2511, visit your nearest branch or go to

[www.npbs.co.uk](http://www.npbs.co.uk).

PCL Energy Services is a PECT Consultancy Ltd partnership project.



**PCL –E**

PCL Energy Services  
1st Floor  
4-6 Cowgate  
Peterborough  
PE1 1NA

Phone: 01733 568532  
Fax: 01733 553716  
e-mail: [info@pcl-energy.co.uk](mailto:info@pcl-energy.co.uk)

# Basic Bank Account Guide



**Delivering Quality, Energy and  
Warmth**

# Is a Basic Bank Account for me ?

You may already know about current accounts, and have decided they're not for you at this time. But a basic bank account may suit you better.

If you pay your bills by direct debit you normally receive a discount on most utility bills, you may even qualify for extra services or discounts from your Housing Association. Contact your utility supplies and your Housing Association to find out what discounts or offer they may have for direct debit payments. PCL Energy Services helps tenants pay less for their utility costs, We have provided this general information sheet to help you know a little more about basic bank account and the benefits they could give you.

## The benefits of a basic bank account are:

- You can have your wages, benefits, state pension and tax credits paid directly into your account. To arrange this, just contact your wages office or the pensions or benefit office dealing with your claim.
- It costs you nothing to pay cheques into a basic bank account, although you will have to wait at least a few days for the money to be available in your account.



- You can take your money out at cash machines by using a *cashcard* check with your bank if there are any cash machine restrictions or charges.
- You can withdraw money from the Post Office.
- You can't go overdrawn with a basic bank account because you won't get an *overdraft* limit. But if you pay your bills by *direct debit* or *standing order* you will pay bank charges if there isn't enough money in your account to make a payment.
- If you have a *debit card* you can also withdraw cash from some shops, using *cashback*.



## The basic bank accounts available vary as to what they offer you.

Check carefully that the services you want to use are provided. Generally the following rules are true of most basic bank accounts.

- With most banks, you don't need to put in any money to open a basic bank account. With others, £1 is usually enough to get you started. Once you've started it, you don't have to keep paying money in regularly.

- You do not get a cheque book.
- To help stop money laundering, banks are legally required to check your identity before you can open an account. The bank will ask you to provide: a passport or photo-card driving licence or, combinations of certain official documents such as a full UK driving licence plus a council tax demand letter or statement. To help stop *money laundering*, banks are legally required to check your identity before you can open an account.
- Some offer a linked savings account to help you budget. This means you can keep some of your money in your savings account until you need to transfer it over to pay a bill.

To find out more about basic bank accounts you can contact the Financial Services Authority (FSA) Consumer Helpline on:

**0845 606 1234**  
**Or**  
**www.fsa.gov.uk**