

SAVE

XMAS

A quick guide to paying for Christmas

Many people lost money last year when Farepak collapsed.

If you're one of those people who want to put a bit away each week so that you'll have enough to get what you need at Christmas there are quite a few options.

You might want to stop yourself getting at your money before Christmas. You might prefer vouchers to cash. And perhaps you want the money collected from your home.

Use this leaflet to decide what will work for you.

The table below lets you compare some of the different options.

To find out how to start using one of these ways to pay for Christmas, there's more information on the back of the leaflet or you can call Consumer Direct on **08454 04 05 06**.

	Do I get interest on my money?	Will I get a bonus?	Is it difficult to take money out before Christmas?	Will they collect the money from my home?	Is there any protection?	Can it pay out in vouchers?	Does it pay out just before Christmas?	Do I have to buy from a particular shop or supplier?
Standard bank and building society savings account	✓	Sometimes	With some accounts you have to give notice to take your money out or you lose interest		✓*		It's up to you when you take your money out	
Special building society Christmas account	✓	✓	May lose the bonus and have to close the account		✓*		Most do	
Credit union savings account	You may get a dividend	Sometimes			✓†		It's up to you when you take your money out	
Special credit union Christmas savings account	You may get a dividend	Sometimes	May lose the dividend or bonus and have to close the account		✓†	Some have voucher schemes	✓	
Christmas clubs with local shops (like butchers, corner shops and toy shops)			✓				✓	✓
Hamper scheme from your milkman		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Supermarket stamp schemes for Christmas		✓	✓				✓	✓
Christmas hamper and voucher schemes		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

* If the bank or building society goes bust, you may be able to get compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), up to a maximum of £31,700. The FSCS does not always cover 100% of your loss. For details see the FSCS website www.fscs.org.uk

† If the credit union goes bust, you may be able to get compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), up to a maximum of £31,700 (in England, Scotland and Wales). The FSCS does not always cover 100% of your loss. For details see the FSCS website www.fscs.org.uk

For credit unions in Northern Ireland, contact the Companies Registry at www.detini.gov.uk

Further information

Consumer Direct is a telephone and online consumer advice service funded by government and managed by the Office of Fair Trading. It operates in partnership with Local Authority Trading Standards Services to offer consumers clear, practical and impartial advice and information.



To find out about credit unions, contact the Association of British Credit Unions (ABCUL) on 0161 832 3694 or at www.abc.ul.org, or contact the Scottish League of Credit Unions on 0141 774 5020 or at www.scottishcu.org

To compare the different bank and building society savings accounts available go to the Financial Services Authority website www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk

Citizens Advice may also be able to help you work out the best way of paying for Christmas – check the phone directory to find your nearest branch.

Local Authority Trading Standards Services may also be able to help – check the phone directory for your nearest trading standards office or visit www.tradingstandards.gov.uk

To find out about compensation limits for banks, building societies in the UK and credit unions in England, Scotland or Wales contact the Financial Services Compensation Scheme on 020 7892 7300. For credit unions in Northern Ireland contact the Companies Registry on 0845 604 8888. Companies Registry is part of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

Call **0800 389 3158** for more free copies of this leaflet or to request a different format.