

# Top-paying Isa to close to new savers

**HALIFAX** is to close its Isa Direct Reward to new savers in ten days' time. The account, which pays 3pc tax-free — one of the top rates for an easy-access cash Isa — will close on June 18.

You can transfer your existing cash Isas into the account.

But after you have been in the account for a year, you need to switch out because the rate drops dramatically, currently to just 0.5pc.

It is the second top-paying easy-access cash Isa account launched in the spring to disappear.

Last month, Barclays cut the rate on its Golden Isa 3 from 3.2pc to 2.2pc tax-free for new savers.

Top rates on easy-access accounts — including initial bonus — come from AA Internet Access Isa at 3.35 pc and Santander Flexible Isa at 3.3 pc.

Savers looking for a fixed-rate cash Isa can earn 3.2pc for a year at Derbyshire, Cheshire and Dunfermline — all Nationwide subsidiaries.

Northern Rock pays 3.1pc if you run the account over the internet and 3pc by post. You can also earn 3pc with M&S Money.

The best rate on two-year deals comes from Santander at 3.7pc on its postal account, while Leeds BS pays the same rate on its branch-based account.

Leeds gives you access to a quarter of your capital during the term without charge. Other top two-year deals include Halifax at 3.36pc and Lloyds TSB, minimum £3,000 at 3.6pc.