

Coventry's online offer pays 2.5 pc

BANKS and building societies continue to jostle for top position on accounts you run over the internet. Coventry BS has launched its Online Saver Issue 2 at 2.5 pc after tax (3.15 pc before.)

Derbyshire BS raised the rate on its NetSaver account to 2.44 pc (3.06 pc) yesterday. The move comes less than a month after the building society, part of the Nationwide, unveiled the new account. All those who have opened one since its launch on February 15 will see their rate rise. On Monday, Santander closed its eSaver 4 account paying 2.48 pc (3.1 pc) to replace it with eSaver 5 at 2.4 pc (3 pc).

All three accounts pay a short-term bonus and the rate will fall once it runs out. The Santander bonus runs for 12 months after which your rate will drop to 0.4 pc (0.5 pc).

At Coventry, the rate includes a 0.92 (1.15) percentage point bonus for 12 months and you are limited to four withdrawals a year.

At Derbyshire, the bonus runs until June 30 next year after which the rate drops to 0.8 pc (1 pc).

If you fail to switch to a better account after a year, you will end up in a poor-paying account. Some savers in previous issues of Santander's eSaver earn as little as 0.08 pc (0.1 pc). But they can switch to the new eSaver 5.

If you don't want to swap your account after a year, go for Virgin Easy Access E-Saver, which pays 2.28 pc (2.85 pc) with no bonus.

BEST BUYS: Variable rate savings accounts — easy access

Provider	Contact	Account	Guarantee	Compensation licence	Minimum deposit	Before tax %	After 20% tax %	After 40% tax %
IN THE HIGH STREET								
Virgin Money (g)	0845 154 4976	Easy Access Saver	no	shared	£	2.85	2.28	1.71
Newcastle BS (e)	0845 606 5522	Direct Saver Plus	no	own	1	2.35	1.88	1.41
Skipton BS	0845 702 5026	My Savings	no	shared	1	2.25	1.80	1.35
Yorkshire BS (d)	0845 1200 100	Triple Access Saver	no	shared	100	2.25	1.80	1.35
Nationwide BS (f)	0800 302 010	Flexclusive 2	to Jan 2014	shared	1,000	2.00	1.60	1.20
TELEPHONE (T) and POSTAL (P) ACCOUNTS								
Allied Irish Bank (GB) (e)	0845 455 2222	Easy Access Reward (P/T)	no	own	1	3.00	2.40	1.80
Leeds BS	08450 540 995	Postal Access (P)	no	shared	1,000	2.90	2.32	1.74
Virgin Money	0845 154 4976	Easy Access Saver (P)	no	shared	1	2.85	2.28	1.71
Sainsbury's Bank	0500 405 060	Extra Saver (T)	no	own	1	2.50	2.00	1.50
INTERNET ACCOUNTS								
Virgin Money	northernrock.co.uk	Easy Access eSaver	no	shared	1	2.85	2.28	1.71
Sainsbury's Bank	sainsburybank.co.uk	Extra Saver	no	own	1	2.50	2.00	1.50
Saffron BS	saffronbs.co.uk	e-saver 5	no	own	10	2.50	2.00	1.50
Skipton BS	skipton.co.uk	My Saving	no	shared	1	2.50	2.00	1.50
Intelligent Finance	if.com	iSaver	no	shared	1	2.49	1.99	1.49
CASH ISAS: Branch (B), telephone (T), postal (P) and internet (Int)								
M&S Money	0808 002 2222	Advantage Isa	no	own	100	3.00	3.00	3.00
Virgin Money	0845 154 4976	Easy Access Cash Isa (B/T/Int/P)	no	shared	1	2.85	2.85	2.85
Sainsbury's Bank	0500 405 060	Cash Isa (Int/T)	no	own	500	2.80	2.80	2.80
Intelligent Finance	0845 609 4343	Cash Isa (Int/T)	no	shared	1	2.50	2.50	2.50
NS&I (a)	0500 007 007	Direct Isa (Int/T)	no	Government	100	2.50	2.50	2.50
TWO YEAR CASH ISAS WITH INTRODUCTORY OFFERS: Branch (B), telephone (T), postal (P) and internet (Int)								
The AA (a)	theaa.com	Internet Access Isa 3	Bonus / offer					
Cheshire BS (a)	0808 144 3880	Direct Cash Isa (P)	3% pt for 1 yr	shared	2,500	3.50	3.50	3.50
Santander (a)	0800 587 2764	Direct Isa 9 (B/T/Int)	2.1% pt to Sep 2013	shared	1,000	3.35	3.35	3.35
ING Direct	0800 376 8877	Cash Isa	2.8% pt for 1 yr	own	2,500	3.30	3.30	3.30
Barclays (a)	via branch	Isa Saver 2 (B)	2% pt for 1 yr	Dutch	1	3.00	3.00	3.00
TWO YEAR ACCOUNTS WITH INTRODUCTORY OFFERS: Branch (B), telephone (T), postal (P) and internet (Int)								
Coventry BS (e)	thecoventry.co.uk	Online Saver 2	1% pt for 1 yr	own	1	2.75	2.75	2.75
Derbyshire BS	thederbyshire.co.uk	NetSaver 3	1.15% pt for 1 yr	shared	1	3.15	2.52	1.89
Skipton BS	skipton.co.uk	Online Bonus Saver (Int)	2.06% pt to Jun 2013	shared	1,000	3.06	2.45	1.84
ING Direct (b)	0800 376 8877	Direct Savings (Int/T)	1.55% pt for 1 yr	shared	1,000	3.05	2.44	1.83
Saga (c)	0800 066 5784	Telephone Saver 3 (T)	2.56% pt for 1 yr	Dutch	1	2.90	2.32	1.74
Norwich & Peterborough BS	0845 300 2511	Branch Saver (B)	2.25% pt for 1 yr	shared	1	2.75	2.20	1.65
			1.25% pt for 1 yr	own	1	2.25	1.80	1.35

KEY: (a) No transfers from other providers; (b) New savers only; (c) For the over 50s only; (d) Max three withdrawals a year. Also available at Chelsea and Barnley BS branches; (e) Limited withdrawals; (f) Open to Society's current account customers only; (g) Through Northern Rock branches. TABLE COMPILED BY SYLVIA MORRIS. See www.thisismoney.co.uk for savings updates. To find out which banks and building societies share a licence, go to www.fsc.gov.uk or call 0646 606 12340.