

News story: New £1 coin becomes legal tender

The new £1 coin becomes legal tender from today.

This is the first new £1 coin to be introduced in more than 30 years and will be the most secure of its kind in the world – highlighting the UK's position as a world leader in innovation.

The new coins are being produced by The Royal Mint, in South Wales, at a rate of up to four million per day. The public can now expect to find them in their change in the coming days and weeks.

Around 1.5 billion new £1 coins are being produced by The Royal Mint and these will be distributed to banks and retailers over the next 6 months. Round £1 coins will be returned to The Royal Mint – some of which will be reused to make the new coin.

Commercial Secretary to the Treasury Baroness Neville-Rolfe said:

This is a giant step forward to help stamp out counterfeit coins and save businesses and the taxpayer millions of pounds every year.

Today marks the start of the six-month transition period, so I'd urge everyone to make sure they spend, return or donate their old round pounds before 15 October. We have been working hard with businesses over the last three years to help make this changeover as smooth as possible.

Adam Lawrence, chief executive of Royal Mint, said:

It's an historic day for UK coinage, and one that The Royal Mint has been working towards, together with businesses and industry, for a number of years. From today, the public will start to encounter for themselves the most innovative and secure coin ever produced by The Royal Mint.

It's been designed to be fit for the future, using security features that aim to safeguard our currency, and currencies around the world, for years to come. Staying ahead of sophisticated counterfeiters remains a constant challenge and this coin helps in that battle.

David Smith, Head of Public Affairs and Research at the British Parking Association, said:

The BPA has been working closely with The Royal Mint and HM Treasury to ensure that its members, who include local authorities, parking operators, and parking machine manufacturers, are ready to accept the new £1 coin wherever possible at launch. Most of the major parking machine manufacturers are positive they will be able to manage the upgrade in a timely manner, having begun upgrades over 12 months ago.

Evidence suggests a significant number of motorists prefer using cash and they should feel confident that they can pay for parking wherever they choose to park when the new £1 coin is launched.

The Royal Mint and HM Treasury have been working with businesses for the past three years to help them prepare for the change. Although many will have upgraded their machines to accept the new coin from 28 March, not all machines will accept the new coin from the date of introduction.

The new 12-sided £1 is highly secure and looks very different. New security features on the one pound coin include a hologram-like image that changes from a '£' symbol to the number '1' when the coin is seen from different angles. It also has micro-lettering and milled edges.

Further information

It is important that all round £1 coins are returned before 15 October 2017 when they lose their legal tender status. People will still be able to return old coins to their bank after this time.

Businesses, as well as members of the public, wishing to find out more information about the support on offer should visit the [official new £1 website](#)

[Press release: PM meeting with the Prime Minister of Qatar: 27 March 2017](#)

The Prime Minister welcomed His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Al Thani, Prime Minister of Qatar, to Downing Street this afternoon for a bilateral meeting.

Prime Minister May welcomed the close relationship between the two countries. And she reiterated the commitment she made at the Gulf Cooperation Council Summit in December to step up the UK's relationship with the Gulf.

They discussed our growing trade and investment partnership, and agreed that the Qatar-UK Business and Investment Forum taking place in London and

Birmingham this week will provide opportunities to deepen these ties.

They also agreed on the importance of our security cooperation, and committed to strengthening our collaboration on cyber security and defence.

Finally, they discussed regional issues, and the importance of securing lasting political settlements in Syria and Yemen, while ensuring humanitarian assistance reaches those in need.

They ended by looking forward to the Gulf Cooperation Council Summit to be hosted by the UK later this year.

[Press release: Foreign Office expresses concern about Russian protest arrests](#)

The UK is concerned by the detention on 26 March of hundreds of Russian citizens following organised protests, which included journalists and opposition leader Alexei Navalny. Russian citizens were exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. The UK calls on the government of Russia to release citizens detained during peaceful demonstrations, and to comply with its international commitments in the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

[Press release: New survey of mums reveals perceived barriers to breastfeeding](#)

Almost three-quarters of women start breastfeeding when their child is born, but this drops to 44% within 6 to 8 weeks. However, evidence shows the right support helps mums to breastfeed for longer. Public Health England (PHE) recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months.

A new survey of 500 mothers of young children commissioned by PHE showed that more than half were concerned that breastfeeding could mean they wouldn't be able to tell if their baby was getting too much or not enough milk. A similar proportion of mums surveyed thought that people might assume they need a special diet to breastfeed. Nearly 3 in 10 worried that breastfeeding could

mean their baby might not be getting the right nutrients, indicating why mothers may stop breastfeeding at this early point.

Breastfeeding boosts a baby's ability to fight illness and infection. Babies who are not breastfed are more likely to get diarrhoea and respiratory infections. It lowers a mother's risk of ovarian and breast cancer, and also burns around 500 calories a day.

Start4Life, PHE's marketing programme that helps parents-to-be and parents to adopt healthy behaviours, has launched a new interactive Breastfeeding Friend (BFF) ChatBot. The BFF is accessed through Facebook messenger and provides personal support for mothers at any time of the day or night to help make breastfeeding a better experience. The BFF will also dispel breastfeeding myths and help alleviate concerns mums have. The ChatBot works as a live chat tool which is able to respond to questions about breastfeeding posed by the user.

Viv Bennett, Chief Nurse at PHE said:

Breastfeeding, while natural, is something that all mums and their babies learn by doing. Mums tell us that after the first few weeks breastfeeding becomes easier, so proper support is crucial at this time, which is where our BFF is designed to help.

We can all help women feel comfortable breastfeeding their baby wherever they are. Creating a wider culture of encouragement and support will help make a mother's experience all the more positive.

The survey also confirmed that breastfeeding in public is something that mums are concerned about. The mothers polled were most likely to say that they would feel embarrassed breastfeeding in the presence of people they don't know (63%). 59% feel the same about partner's family and 49% felt it about siblings and wider family members.

Minister for Public Health and Innovation Nicola Blackwood said:

Research shows that breastfeeding gives babies the best start in life but I know it's not always easy for new mums to start. Start4Life's new interactive Facebook messenger ChatBot is a quick and easy way for mums to get help and information, and complements the ongoing support from their midwifery team and health visitor.

Jacque Gerrard, Director for England at Royal College of Midwives' said:

Getting infant feeding right will help give new-born babies the best possible start in life. Women need all the support they can get, particularly first time mothers. It is important that midwives and maternity support workers continue to promote breastfeeding.

Any initiative that goes towards helping mothers start and sustain breastfeeding for longer is positive as we know the health benefits from being breastfed last a lifetime.

High-profile figures who promote breastfeeding had a positive influence on the mums polled. Household names like Sam Faiers, Fearne Cotton and Blake Lively, who have recently championed breastfeeding on social media, inspired 49% of mums to breastfeed their own babies. Two-thirds (64%) felt more confident to breastfeed in public because of celebrity mums.

For more information, advice and tips on breastfeeding visit:
www.nhs.uk/start4life.

To access the Breastfeeding BFF, simply open Facebook Messenger and search Start4Life BreastFeeding Friend or visit m.me/Start4LifeBreastFeedingFriend to get started.

For further information, images or interviews please contact:

1. The Start4Life Breastfeeding Friend, BFF for short, is a ChatBot accessible via Facebook Messenger, using Android or iPhones, tablets or computers. It provides answers to users' breastfeeding questions, any time of the day or night, from getting started to continuing breastfeeding after weaning. To start a chat with the Start4Life BreastFeeding Friend:
 - visit m.me/Start4LifeBreastFeedingFriend or click on one of our Facebook ads and if you have Facebook Messenger installed, you'll be taken straight to the app to start your chat
 - open the Facebook Messenger app and search for Start4Life Breastfeeding Friend in the search bar at the top of the app
 - visit facebook.com/Start4LifeBreastFeedingFriend and click 'send message' underneath our cover photo
2. In addition to the Breastfeeding BFF ChatBot, there are many other ways that mothers can get breastfeeding support. The Start4Life website has a range of advice and resources which can help mothers continue breastfeeding, as well as a dedicated helpline they can call. Mothers can also get help through their:
 - friends and family
 - midwifery team
 - health visitor
 - local breastfeeding drop-in services
3. Facts on breastfeeding:
 - PHE recommends that babies are exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months to give them the best start in life
 - breast milk boosts babies' ability to fight illness and infection in their first 6 months
 - breastfeeding lowers the risk of breast cancer and ovarian cancer for the mother, and also burns about 500 calories a day
 - breastfeeding has a positive impact on the whole population. Moderate increases in breastfeeding would translate into cost savings for the NHS

4. TNS data was collected from 500 mothers of children aged 0 to 18 months on behalf of PHE in October 2016. The statements about breastfeeding that those surveyed most agreed with in the Start4Life survey were that:
 - it could be painful (74%)
 - it could prevent me from taking medication (71%)
 - I wouldn't be able to tell if my baby was getting enough or too much milk (54%)
 - it could tie me down and stop me doing what I want to (51%)
 - I may have to eat a special diet (49%)
 - I couldn't take the birth control pill (37%)
 - women with breast implants are not able to breastfeed (29%)
 - my baby may not be getting the necessary nutrients (27%)
 - some women's breasts can be too small to be able to breastfeed (24%)
 - it could stop me exercising (24%)
 5. Sometimes breastfeeding isn't possible for a range of reasons. If this is the case, in terms of liquids babies should only be given infant formula milk for the first 12 months and no other types of milk.
 6. Start4Life's Baby Club and [Start4Life website](#) offers NHS information and advice for parents-to-be and parents of 0 to 5 year olds providing them with the advice they need to help get their child off to the best start in life.
 7. The Department of Health is also supporting Unicef UK to develop a neonatal infant feeding network to support sick and preterm babies.
 8. [Public Health England](#) exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. It does this through world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health. Follow us on Twitter: [@PHE_uk](#) and Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland.
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[Press release: Planned roadworks in Yorkshire and the Humber: summary for Monday 27 March to Sunday 2 April 2017](#)

The following summary of planned new and ongoing road improvements over the coming week is correct as of Friday 24 March and could be subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. All our improvement

work is carried out with the aim of causing as little disruption as possible.

M1 junction 32 Thurcroft to junction 35a Stocksbridge

The northbound exit slip road at junction 34 will be closed overnight on Wednesday 29 March. The northbound carriageway at junction 33 will be closed overnight between the slip roads on Thursday 30 March. The northbound entry slip road at junction 33 will be closed overnight on Wednesday 29 March and then again on Friday 31 March. The southbound exit at junction 33 will be closed overnight on Friday 31 March.

The southbound entry at junction 34 will be closed overnight for two nights from Thursday 30 March. The southbound carriageway will be closed between the slip roads at junction 32 overnight on Tuesday 28 March. The works are for the smart motorway scheme. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

M62 junction 22 Rishworth Moor

The westbound exit slip road will be fully closed overnight on Wednesday 29 March for electrical works. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

M621 junction 2a Cemetery Road Bridge

The anticlockwise exit slip road will be closed overnight on Wednesday 29 March for electrical works. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

M18 junction 4 Armthorpe

The southbound exit slip road will be closed overnight for three nights from Friday 31 March for bridge works. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

A1M junction 36 Warmsworth

The southbound exit slip road will be fully closed overnight for three nights from Monday 27 March for barrier works. The closures will take place between 9pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

A1 Ferrybridge to Barnsdale Bar

The southbound carriageway will be fully closed overnight for seven nights from Monday 27 March for carriageway repairs. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am weekdays and 9pm and 10am weekends, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

A64 Scagglethorpe to West Knapton

The carriageway will be fully closed overnight for seven nights from Monday 27 March for carriageway repairs. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am weeknights and between 8pm and 10am at weekends, and drivers will be able to follow clearly-signed diversion routes.

A64 Pickering Interchange

The eastbound carriageway will be fully closed between the slip roads overnight for five nights from Monday 27 March for carriageway repairs. The closures will take place between 9pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

A64 Hoppgrove to Stockton

The eastbound and westbound carriageway will be fully closed overnight for four nights from Tuesday 28 March for carriageway repairs. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.