

# Press Release

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## Halifax Issues Contactless Debit Cards

Halifax will issue its first contactless debit cards on Monday 12th November. The new Visa payWave debit cards will be issued to around 25,000 existing customers across London, who are taking part in the initial phase of the contactless payment roll-out.

Customers will receive new Visa debit cards featuring contactless payment functionality in addition to the usual debit card functions; payments and ATM withdrawals at home and abroad. Visa payWave will allow customers to pay for items up to the value of £10 without the need to enter their card or PIN wherever they see the contactless "ripple" symbol.

The new cards can be used in up to 1,000 shops, petrol stations, bars and restaurants around the City of London. McDonald's, Coffee Republic, Yo! Sushi and Threshers will have outlets centred on areas such as Liverpool Street, St Paul's and Canary Wharf.

The initial phase of this scheme is in London but it is anticipated that the technology will be rolled-out across the UK from mid-2008.

Commenting, Paul Marriott-Clarke, head of banking at Halifax, said,

"We're delighted to be at the forefront of this scheme. Contactless payment through Visa payWave is quick and convenient – ideally suited to busy cities like London as it is the fastest and most convenient way for customers to pay for their small everyday purchases."

Ends.

### Editors' Notes:

In 2006, 10.4 billion payments of less than £5 were made in the UK, over 96% of these were by cash. (source: APACS May 2007)

APACS estimates suggest that over 5 million contactless cards will be issued by the end of 2008 and they will be accepted in at least 100,000 retailers.