

The Savings Gateway - government help to boost your savings

Later this year a new government backed savings scheme called the Savings Gateway is to be introduced. Aimed at people of working age who are on lower incomes, the government will give you 50 pence for each £1 you save into your Savings Gateway account.

Am I eligible for a savings gateway account?

You will qualify for an account if you getting one of the following benefits or tax credits: Income Support; Incapacity Benefit; Severe Disablement Allowance; Employment and Support Allowance; Job Seekers Allowance; Child Tax Credit (your income must be below £16,040 - this limit may increase after April) or Carers Allowance (you must actually get this, not just have an underlying entitlement)

How do I apply for an account?

When the scheme launches later this year, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will write to everyone who is eligible, inviting them to apply for an account and telling them how to go about doing this. Savings Gateway accounts will be offered by a range of banks, building societies and credit unions. You can only open one savings gateway account during the course of your lifetime – so you need to think about when would be the best time for you to do so.

How much can I save into my account?

You can save whatever you like - up to a maximum of £25 a month. At the end of the two years the government will then add a reward of 50 pence for each £1 you've saved.

When will I be able to open an account?

At the time of writing no launch date has been announced. However it is unlikely to be before April 2010. More detailed information on the Savings Gateway should be available shortly. Telephone Contact a Family's Helpline (freephone 0808 808 3555) for an update.