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# PayPoint provides fast access to cash for school meal vouchers

**Cash Out allows Local Authorities to provide families in need with cash instead of supermarket vouchers during school holidays**

**Welwyn Garden City, 02 December 2020:** Following news that the UK Government has extended the provision of free school meals for the Christmas holidays - and all school breaks until summer 2021 - PayPoint is reminding local authorities that they can issue money to financially vulnerable families in real-time.

PayPoint's Cash Out solution works seamlessly to enable eligible families to receive vouchers via email, letter or SMS and in turn, redeem them for cash in 27,500 retailers across the UK, rather than being limited to specific supermarkets. Access to the Cash Out facility is via an online portal which removes the need for any development, easing the burden on local authorities already facing significant challenges of the COVID-19 crisis.

Danny Vant, Client Services Director of PayPoint commented; "PayPoint is committed to providing easy, stress free solutions that deliver immediate results for consumers, businesses and local authorities alike. The ability to provide these real-time solutions has been a key driver in the growth of our digital solutions this year. Helping families to access the financial support they need and are entitled to, through the free school meals scheme, is another way in which we are helping to make life easier in a challenging year.

"Typically, families receive an eGift voucher to spend in their chosen supermarket, which works well for many people, but not everyone can get to one of these. It would be more helpful if there was an option to receive cash to spend at local convenience stores, which are typically open longer hours than supermarkets so they are more accessible. Across the UK 99.5% of the urban population live within one mile of a PayPoint store and 98.3% of the rural population live within five miles of a PayPoint store."

"Local authorities have the option to provide a different solution to better suit their residents – digitally or physically - and Cash Out is a fast, easy and cost-effective solution. Once received via email, text message or post, families can redeem their Cash Out voucher at a local retailer when it is convenient for them, making free school meals even more accessible and beneficial for every family."

## Contact HSL for more information

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## ABOUT PAYPOINT

We are pioneering new ways of using digital payments so organisations can seamlessly and effectively serve their customers. Our market-leading omnichannel solution – MultiPay – is an

integrated solution offering a full suite of digital payments. It enables transactions online and through smartphone apps and text messages, as well as over the counter, over the phone and via interactive voice response (IVR) systems. It also supports a full range of Direct Debit options, including scheduling collections.

MultiPay customers benefit from real-time visibility of all payments received, through one easy-to-use portal that is fully PCI compliant, and allows visibility of all payment channels - including cash. The platform is used by over a growing number of organisations across the UK, including many housing associations, local government authorities and utility providers.

We also help millions of people control their household finances, make essential payments and access in-store services like cash withdrawals, parcel collections and drop-offs. Our UK network of more than 27,500 stores is bigger than all banks, supermarkets and Post Offices together, putting us at the heart of communities nationwide.