

## Big News: Why the New UK Reforms Matter to You

Last month marked a major milestone for community banking. On the 18th March 2026, the UK Government announced a landmark set of reforms designed to modernise the credit union sector—and here at Gateway Credit Union, we couldn't be more excited!

At our heart, we've always been about "people helping people." These changes aren't just policy tweaks; they are a direct investment in financial inclusion and resilience across Wales and the UK.



## What's Changing?

The government's new "widening access" initiative is designed to bring affordable finance to millions more people. Here is a breakdown of what these reforms mean for our community:

- **Room to Grow:** The cap on locality-based credit unions is being raised from 3 million to 10 million potential members. This allows us to scale up, merge, and offer more robust services to a much wider audience.
- **Welcoming Students:** For the first time, students will be eligible to join locality-based credit unions. This provides young people with a vital alternative to high-interest debt and helps them build healthy financial habits early.
- **Modern Family Dynamics:** The rules are catching up to real life. Credit unions can now serve more relatives and household members.

## Why This Matters

For too long, many people have felt locked out of fair, affordable financial services. By modernising these rules, the government is ensuring that credit unions—the ethical alternative to big banks—can reach the people who need them most.

Whether you are a student starting your journey, a family looking to save, or a retiree wanting to keep your money local, Gateway is here to grow with you.

Want to learn more? You can read the full government statement [here](#).



**GCU - Pontypool Opening Hours for Member Services over the phone and in person**

**Mondays**

**Wednesdays**

**Fridays**



**10am-12pm & 1-3pm**

## It's Here! Introducing the Express Payroll Loan

Need a financial boost without the wait? Our Express Payroll Loan is now available!

Designed exclusively for our Payroll members, this loan offers the speed and flexibility you deserve.

### The Highlights:

- Borrow £250 – £1,000 to suit your needs.
- Top-up options are available up to the £1,000 limit.
- Apply twice within any 12-month period.
- Rapid 48-hour processing once we receive your application.



Are you eligible? To apply, you must be a Payroll member with at least £5 in your account, have completed your probation period, and have no other existing loans with us.

Ready to apply? Head over to the link below to get started!

<https://tinyurl.com/GCUExpressPayroll>

**MONEYWORKS**  
Wales

Representative example 38.5% APR. Borrowing £1,000 today, pay £99 per month over 12 months. Total amount repayable is £1,189.

## Struggling with bills or debt? You don't have to go it alone.

Get FREE, confidential, and expert financial advice today from services like MoneyHelper and GOV.WALES. Take the first step to take back control of your finances.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Money  
Helper**

## About Gateway Credit Union

At **GCU**, we are committed to supporting our local communities in **Torfaen** and **Monmouthshire** in building financial resilience through secure savings and affordable loans. By starting your savings journey with us, you can secure a stable financial future for yourself and loved ones. Our savings options are designed for people of all ages.

**PEACE OF MIND THROUGH TRUSTED, LOCAL FINANCIAL SERVICES**

  
**Gateway**  
Credit Union



[www.gatewaycu.co.uk](http://www.gatewaycu.co.uk)



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