



**BANK OF ENGLAND**

# News release

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13 November 2017

## **Bank of England commences the direct delivery of the CHAPS service**

The Bank of England has today commenced the direct delivery of the CHAPS service. Prior to today, the CHAPS service was operated by the CHAPS Clearing Company Limited (CHAPS Co) – a private entity owned by its members.

Earlier this year the Bank, and the Financial Policy Committee, concluded that financial stability would be enhanced by moving to direct delivery. The Bank's decision was announced in May in its Blueprint for a new RTGS service. The Blueprint aims to ensure the UK's high-value payment system (HVPS) remains at the leading edge of global best practice.

More information about the Blueprint can be found [here](#).

The CHAPS service is open as usual today.

ENDS

### Notes for Editors

The Blueprint for a new RTGS service announced the Bank's intention to move to a direct delivery model in which the Bank is responsible for both the RTGS infrastructure (which the Bank already provides) and the CHAPS high-value payment scheme.

*As the Blueprint concluded, 'Direct delivery offers the opportunity to position the United Kingdom at the leading edge of global best practice in terms of technology, governance and risk management. It will allow the new RTGS service to be designed from the start in a fully holistic way. And it will ensure that end-to-end risk management can make use of the full set of tools and resources available to the Bank to identify,*

*mitigate, and respond to risks as they emerge across the HVPS ecosystem as a whole, building on the important work already undertaken by CHAPS Co.* The Bank's conclusion was informed and endorsed by the independent Financial Policy Committee.

Since May, the Bank has worked closely with CHAPS Co, CHAPS direct participants, and the wider payments industry to design a new operating model and deliver the change programme needed to effect the transition. This has been a highly co-operative process. The final steps were taken over the weekend of 10-12 November, during which the transaction to purchase the shares in CHAPS Co from the 25 CHAPS direct participants was completed alongside the final operational tasks required to move CHAPS Co's data and staff across. 29 CHAPS Co staff have joined the Bank to continue their work operating the CHAPS service.

The combined RTGS and CHAPS service will be overseen by a new governance Board at the Bank chaired by the Deputy Governor for Markets and Banking, Sir Dave Ramsden, comprised of Bank executives and independent members. That Board will oversee the future CHAPS transformation programme, alongside the broader renewal of RTGS. The Bank will also establish a new Strategic Advisory Forum for senior industry representatives to ensure that the voice of users is heard in strategic decision making.

Delivery of CHAPS will be supervised by the Bank's Financial Market Infrastructure Directorate to the same standards as other systemically important payment schemes. The Bank will also continue to work closely with the Payment Systems Regulator on enabling fair and open access to the CHAPS service, based on reasonable risk-related participation requirements, as a means of promoting innovation, competition and the interests of users, where consistent with the Bank's mission.

More information about the CHAPS Service can be found [here](#).