

CREDIT SCORING

How it works

RESPONDING TO YOUR APPLICATION

When you apply for one of our services, we understand you want a fast decision, based on a fair view of your circumstances.

We use a method called credit scoring to help us respond to you quickly in a way that's impartial.

We've been using credit scoring for many years to guide us on all of our customers' applications. We use it if you're applying for a mortgage.

We believe it provides a straightforward solution, and hope you do too. After all, we take our responsibilities as a bank very seriously.

 Credit scoring helps us respond to you in a way that's quick, fair – and completely impartial.

WORKING OUT YOUR CREDIT SCORE

We use three kinds of information to work out your credit score:

- Details you give us about yourself as part of your application
- Information based on the way you manage your accounts with us – including whether you've repaid any previous borrowing as agreed
- Information about your personal financial history supplied by a credit reference agency.

We give each piece of information a score. Adding them up helps us to decide whether we can agree to a particular application.

When your credit score reaches a certain level we'll usually agree to your application. If it falls short, we can review your application again to see what we can do to accept it. Unfortunately, in some cases, we may have to decline your application.

Whatever the outcome, we promise to let you know as soon as we can.

Why credit scoring is fair

Credit scoring is based on the experiences we've had with thousands of borrowers over many years.

We assess each piece of information in a fair way, using statistical analysis to decide whether it falls into a low or high-risk category.

We'll carefully work out your credit risk and whether or not we can responsibly accept your application.

We test our credit scoring methods regularly, to make sure they are fair and unbiased, and meet our regulatory commitments.

Why your credit score can change

Your credit score is personal to you, but it isn't fixed and can alter as your circumstances change. This means, even if your application isn't successful on one occasion, we may be able to give you a positive decision the next time.

Different banks, building societies and other lenders will approve a credit score at different levels. So while one company might turn down an application, another might say yes.

- ✓ We use your credit score to decide whether we can agree to your application.

CREDIT REFERENCE AGENCIES MADE SIMPLE

When you apply for one of our services, we may need to use information that comes directly from you and through a credit reference agency. This will help us work out your credit score, and confirm your identity and address.

We will clearly indicate on your application if the service you are applying for involves a credit reference agency.

A credit reference agency is a specialist company that holds information about your personal financial history. It doesn't create or maintain blacklists, and doesn't make a decision on an application.

In common with other banks, we share account performance information with the credit reference agencies.

Information is collected from several sources:

From public records

The electoral register helps confirm your identity and the address where you live.

Court records, such as a County Court Judgement (CCJ) or bankruptcy, may show any previous financial problems that should be taken into account.

From other lenders

This information could include details of previous applications you have made to borrow, and whether you have always made repayments on time.

Knowing about this can show whether you have outstanding loans, and how well you're managing your finances.

Even if your record shows that you have – or once had – financial difficulties, we won't automatically turn your application down.

SEEING YOUR CREDIT DETAILS

We use three major credit agencies:

Experian

Experian Ltd,
Customer Support Centre, Nottingham,
PO Box 8000, NG80 7WF
Telephone: **0344 481 0800**
www.experian.co.uk
Email: **consumer.helpservice@uk.experian.com**

Transunion

Transunion Limited,
Consumer Services,
PO Box 491, Leeds LS3 1WZ
Telephone: **0330 024 7579** or **0330 024 7574** (option 7)
www.transunion.co.uk
Email: **consumer@transunion.co.uk**

Equifax

Equifax Limited,
Customer Service Centre,
PO Box 10036,
Leicester LE3 4FS
Telephone: **0800 014 2955** or **0333 321 4043**
www.equifax.co.uk

As a bank all our information is sent to all three agencies.

You can get details of the information they hold about you by visiting the websites above or by sending each of them a written request.

When the company replies, they'll explain what it all means. If you see that they are holding particular information about you that's wrong, you should forward the correct information straightaway. They can advise you on the best way to get it changed.

IF WE CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR APPLICATION

If we cannot accept your application, we will give you the reason why. Our decision is always based on the information we have about you at that time, including:

- Your credit score – which may show that the risk of lending to you is too high.
- Our policy on lending – for example you may not meet our lending criteria.
- Information held by a credit reference agency that shows any adverse credit history.

 We always aim to give you a fast decision on your application – usually on the same day.

HOW TO APPEAL AGAINST OUR DECISION

If we turn down your application, you can appeal

If we've turned you down for credit, you can ask us to reconsider and to look at your application again – particularly if you can give us more information to support it. Without new information it is very unlikely that we will be able to change our decision. Contact your mortgage broker and say why you feel the decision is wrong.

If you think that information held about you at a credit reference agency is wrong, you should contact them and ask them to put it right (see page 5 for credit reference agency contact details). You should also contact the company that registered the information if you think they have made a mistake.

 We hope this booklet has helped you to understand credit scoring.

GET IN TOUCH



0345 300 2627

Lines are open Monday to Friday
8am to 8pm, Saturday 9am to 1pm



bmmortgages.co.uk

Help is at hand

We want to help our customers in any way we can. For visually impaired customers we can provide documents in large print, Braille or CD. Please ask a member of staff if you'd like to know more.

Customer service

We do all we can to give you the very best service. But sometimes things can go wrong. If you ever have a complaint or a problem, we'd really like to know. Please call us on **0345 300 2627**.

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