

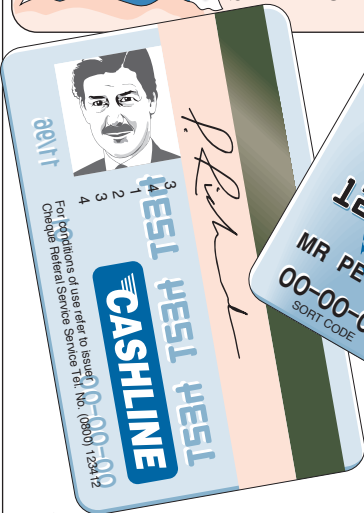
The battle against the fraudsters

Plastic card fraud is a massive industry worldwide, accounting for over \$1 billion each year. However, 'smart' cards and other anti-fraud measures are striking back, with MasterCard reporting a slowing down in fraud losses – a 23 per cent rise to \$460 million in 1992 – smaller than in the two previous years



SCOTLAND

Credit card fraud, 1992: £17 million



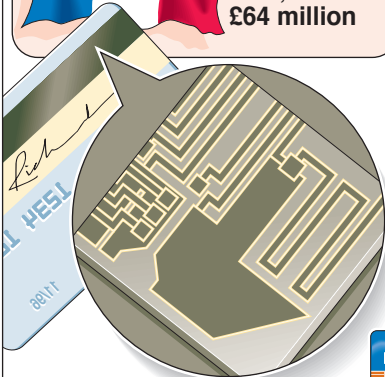
Laser-photocards save £44,500
A trial using 30,000 debit cards with laser-etched customer photographs and signatures has resulted in a dramatic 98.9% cut in fraud losses.

The Royal Bank of Scotland's pilot scheme is now to be extended to the whole of its 800-branch network



FRANCE

Credit card fraud, 1992: £64 million



UK

Credit card fraud, 1992: £165 million

Computer 'spy' saves £4 million
Barclaycard computer system monitors spending patterns and considers if there is anything unusual about the type of purchase or amount spent



'Smart' cards save £19 million
Smart cards cut credit card fraud in France by 22% in 1992. The card's wafer-thin microchip carries a record of the cardholder's credit limit and details of previous transactions and can only be used with the holder's four-digit PIN number