

Cash could be the latest victim of coronavirus – and may never recover

The Guardian - Patrick Collinson

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More people are turning to online banking and contactless payments amid pandemic.

5 I withdrew £200 from an ATM in mid-March – and I still have £160 left . Even one of the last reasons to keep a stock of coins in my car has gone, because the local supermarket has unchained the trolleys that previously needed a £1 coin. Coronavirus **is wiping out (1)** cash in the UK, and it will probably never return.

10 On my trip to the supermarket on Monday I also saw a lonely, frail and nervous gentleman, who looked to be in at least his 80s, taking cash out of the ATM (...) The good news is that the elderly gentleman I saw bent double over that ATM may not need to go back, if someone lets him and others like him know that the Post Office, and some banks, may deliver cash to their door.

If you have a Post Office card account and are **deemed (2)** vulnerable, that can be as much as £2,500. NatWest, Barclays and Tesco Bank will also deliver to your door if you are a vulnerable customer (...).

15 A cashless society is cheaper (it costs billions every year to distribute notes), more honest (no more tax cheating from cash-in-hand payments) and safer (not much for muggers to steal or for drug dealers to do business in). Above all, for smartphone-**wielding (3)** millennials, it's just far more convenient.

20 The drawbacks? Bad news for everyone from buskers to beggars to churches that rely on cash donations. More importantly, some people will lose track of their spending, unable to budget wisely. Society's most marginalised, those not formally within the banking systems, could almost become non-persons.

(1) to wipe out = to eliminate

25 (2) deemed = considered

(3) wielding = using in hand

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