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**£1BN IN FOREIGN CURRENCY STOCKPILED IN BRITAIN'S HOMES
M&S TRAVEL MONEY REVEALS**

- Over £1 billion in foreign currency lying around Britain's homes
 - £16 worth of currency per traveller is never changed back

As thousands of Britons return from half-term breaks abroad, they will bring back an average of £16 in foreign currency per person that will never be changed back into sterling. This means that a grand total of £1billion could be lying dormant in homes across the country.

Marks & Spencer Travel Money research shows that four in five (80%) travellers bring home foreign currency when they return from a break, with almost a third (28%) of those returning home with more than £50 worth.

Over three quarters (76%) of British travellers that bring back foreign money say they do not bother or just forget to change the money back into sterling and a third (33%) simply leave it untouched in a drawer, wallet or handbag. Only six in ten (61%) claim they will definitely use their foreign currency in future.

David Mackay, Commercial Director at M&S Money commented: "This year, 14 million travellers brought home at least £50 from their trip abroad. If they changed it back rather than forgetting about it, they could put the money towards a deposit on their next holiday or a short break.

"Holding on to euros is understandable, but the 42% who holiday outside the euro zone would be better off changing it back to sterling, for example in-store at M&S bureaux de change where there is no charge for converting unused currency."

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Notes to editors:

* According to ABTA 64million trips abroad are being made in 2005.
80% of those 64million travellers brought back foreign currency which equals 51.2m.

51.2 million x £27 the average amount of holiday money brought back = £1.38 billion
- £331m that is changed back = £1.05billion ÷ 64m = £16.42.

** Research carried out on behalf of M&S Travel Money by YouGov between 12 - 15
August 2005 amongst 1130 people aged 18 and over

Marks & Spencer Travel Money - Key Features

- Travel money is available in over 90 M&S stores, by telephone 0870 600 3502 and online at www.marksandspencer.com/travelmoney
- No commission on foreign currency notes and travellers' cheques (1% charge on sterling travellers' cheques)
- Pay with the M&S &MORE credit card for:
 - Up to 55 days' interest free credit if you pay your balance in full every month by the due date
 - No cash advance fee
 - Typical 15.9% APR variable
- Excellent exchange rates
- Commission-free buy-back
- Free delivery on orders for telephone or online orders of £500 or more (for orders of less than £500 there is a £5 delivery charge)
- Fully insured registered post