



Tel: 0207 391 4583

Email: unaf@cccs.co.uk

Website: www.cccs.co.uk

March 30 2010

Press Release

Rise in overseas calls to debt helpline

The UK's leading debt charity, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS), has seen a rise in calls to its helpline from people living outside the country who are struggling to repay their UK debts.

Over 500 people with debt in the UK but who live outside the country have contacted the CCCS already this year. This is a 33 percent increase on the same period in 2009 when it received 375 overseas calls in the first quarter of 2009. A total of 1,691 people called the helpline from outside the UK last year.

CCCS says that the increase in calls is driven by those living in the Eurozone countries. The decreasing value of the pound has meant that people whose incomes are in sterling are using more of it to cover the cost of their living expenses. This then leaves them with less money to repay their debts.

Laura Carver, CCCS helpline manager says: "The decreasing value of the pound is the main reason that those living abroad are struggling to repay their debts.

"We have had people whose income had allowed them to live comfortably abroad, and although that income hasn't changed, they have been left struggling to make ends meet by the decreasing value of the pound. Many are considering moving back to the UK."

You can call the CCCS free-phone helpline on 0800 138 1111, 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

- ends -

Media enquiries:

- Una Farrell, Media Relations Manager, unaf@cccs.co.uk 0207 391 4583

Notes for editors:

1. CCCS operates *Debt Remedy*, an online counselling service available round the clock at www.cccs.co.uk for those who prefer an anonymous option.
2. CCCS's ethos is to help the "can't pays", not the "won't pays", and does not condone debt avoidance. CCCS always aims to help its clients pay back what they owe, in a realistic timescale and manner that is suited to each individual's situation.
3. CCCS is self-funding. Lenders share with the charity the benefit they receive from its operation, making a donation from the money repaid to them. This allows CCCS to retain its independence and ensure that its advice is always in the best interest of the client. CCCS aims to separate the "can't pays" from the "won't pays".