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### **Press Release**

## **Concerns for self employed as calls to debt helpline surge**

The UK's leading debt charity, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS), has expressed concern for those running their own businesses as there was a surge in calls from the self employed to its free debt helpline last month.

The free CCCS debt helpline received 739 calls from those running their own businesses in January 2010, a 78 percent increase from December 2009, when only 415 self employed people called the helpline.

Commenting on the increase, Laura Carver, CCCS helpline manager, says:

"We have received thousands of calls from self employed and sole traders over the past year and heard a lot of stories of people struggling to manage their personal debts while running a business.

"But this spike shows that there is a growing and serious debt problem among self employed people."

CCCS has a free phone helpline for self employed (0800 975 9559), which is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday. Self employed callers are then referred to the CCCS specialist debt counselling for self employed. The CCCS helpline received 6,596 calls from people who were self employed between February 1 2009 and January 31 2010.

**- ends -**

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**Notes for editors:**

1. CCCS operates *Debt Remedy*, an online counselling service available round the clock at [www.cccs.co.uk](http://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".

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