



September 13 2010

Press Release

Latest CCCS budget guidelines published

The UK's largest debt charity the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) has released its latest budget guideline figures. The new figures will increase guidelines for each budget item by the relevant RPI (Retail Price Index) value. A key change to the guidelines is a new 'School Meals' calculation.

The previous 'School Meal' guideline was based on the national figure for school meals based on a 39 week school year. However, CCCS clients find it easier to budget over a 12 month period and this expenditure is still required to feed children during school holiday periods. Having reviewed this principle and examined inclusion rates for this guideline, CCCS will extend this guideline to cover the cost over a 52-week period, resulting in a £7 increase from £28 to £35.

CCCS finance director Steve Nicholson explains the importance of the methodology used to create the guidelines:

"I believe that the CCCS budget guidelines are fair and viable as they are based on an analysis of the budgets of an indebted population of 50,000 and are tailored to the individual by breaking down guidelines to individual line items.

"This sustainability is crucial in order for creditors to accept budget proposals and for debtors to be able to stick to them."

Contact CCCS for more information about the new budget guidelines.

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Media enquiries:

All media enquiries should be directed to:

1. Frances Walker - francesw@cccs.co.uk
2. Una Farrell - unaf@cccs.co.uk
3. Tel: 0207 391 4583 (07507 880 478 or 07950 469 101 outside office hours)

Notes for editors:

1. The CCCS Budget Guidelines are examined each year to ensure the sustainability of realistic budgeting for clients.
2. Detailed analysis was undertaken to ensure that these guidelines are practical for clients, in line with what they are spending, whilst allowing sustainable repayment to creditors.
3. The guidelines also help to provide an explanation of client circumstances to creditors when a client falls outside of their recommended budget.
4. CCCS has a free phone helpline (0800 138 1111), open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday
5. CCCS operates Debt Remedy, an online counselling service available round the clock at www.cccs.co.uk for those who prefer an anonymous option
6. 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