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Press Release

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Over a quarter of debt charity's clients receiving benefit or tax credit

Just over a quarter (26 percent) of a leading debt charity's clients claim one of the five main income replacement benefits. Consumer Credit Counselling Service's (CCCS) Debt Dashboard for quarter three 2010 reviewed which benefits made up its clients' household incomes, and at what proportion. The charity wanted to understand the impact that recently announced cuts to welfare spending would have on its clients' ability to repay their debts.

The review found:

- CCCS will have given debt advice to approximately 110,000 people claiming at least one type of benefit or tax credit by the end of 2010
- The average income of a CCCS client claiming Jobseeker's Allowance is just £7,258 a year
- Clients claiming benefits receive an average of £478 a month, which represents more than a third of their income

Delroy Corinaldi, CCCS External Affairs Director, comments: "Over 100,000 people who were claiming at least one type of benefit or tax credit sought help from CCCS this year.

"The imminent benefit changes are likely to have a significant impact on their ability to manage their already difficult financial situation. CCCS is going to monitor the impact that the cuts have on families throughout the UK."

The full report can be down loaded here:

<http://www.cccs.co.uk/Portals/0/Documents/media/reports/dashboards/Debt-Dashboard-Benefits-review.pdf>

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Notes to editors:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The CCCS free phone helpline 0800 138 1111 is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.
4. *CCCS Debt Remedy* is available at www.cccs.co.uk
5. Follow us on Twitter: @CCCSPressOffice

Media enquiries:

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