

 <p>CONSUMER CREDIT <i>Counselling Service</i> A Registered Charity</p>		 <p>THE CHARITY AWARDS 2009 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WINNER</p>
Tel: 0207 391 4583	Email: <a href="mailto:unaf@cccs.co.uk">unaf@cccs.co.uk</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.cccs.co.uk">www.cccs.co.uk</a>

## **Press Release**

August 25 2010

### **Half of self employed debtors unable to repay debts as people cut back on luxury services**

Half of those contacting debt charity Consumer Credit Counselling Service's (CCCS) Self Employed Centre are unable to repay their debts. The CCCS centre, which specialises in dealing with the personal finances of the self employed, has helped over six and a half thousand people this year. However, only 1,600 were in a position to enter into a debt management plan (DMP) and repay their debts as over half of callers had a deficit budget and therefore no money to start repaying their debts.

CCCS says that a large proportion of those contacting the centre are from the service industries such as hairdressing, gardening and taxi driving. Providing services that people are likely to cut back on when tightening their belts, this category of self employed are particularly vulnerable in an economic downturn resulting in many being unable to repay their debts.

While many self employed are struggling with debt, ironically some people are finding self employment to be the solution to their personal debt problems. One man who had contacted the charity for help with debt problems because he had lost his job retrained as a plumber which allowed him to earn enough money to enter into a DMP and start repaying his debts again.

Geoff Waugh, head of the CCCS Self Employed Centre, comments: "The economic difficulties of the past few years have meant that a lot of people are carrying out work that they would have previously paid other people to do. This has left many self employed people without work and unable to maintain their debt commitments.

“The personal finances of the self employed are often complicated, with little distinction between their personal and business finances. It is therefore particularly important that anyone self employed who is struggling financially should seek help as soon as they realise they have a problem. At the very least we can help with ensuring enough money is set aside for everyday living costs.”

The CCCS free phone helpline 0800 138 1111 is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday. Its online counselling tool *CCCS Debt Remedy* is available at [www.cccs.co.uk](http://www.cccs.co.uk).

- ends -

**Notes to editors:**

1. CCCS is self-funding. Unsecured lenders share with the charity the benefit they receive from its operation, making a donation from the money repaid to them through debt management plans. 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 pay” from the “won’t pay”.

**Media enquiries:**

All media enquiries should be directed to:

Frances Walker - [francesw@cccs.co.uk](mailto:francesw@cccs.co.uk)

Una Farrell - [unaf@cccs.co.uk](mailto:unaf@cccs.co.uk)

Tel: 0207 391 4583 (07507 880478 or 07950 469101 if outside office hours)