

4 November 2011

**Press Release**

**CCCS warns against complacency - and fears insolvency surge  
as 6.2 million households remain financially vulnerable**

National debt charity Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) is warning against complacency as figures released today show that there was a year-on-year decrease in individual insolvencies in England and Wales in the third quarter of 2011. The charity fears a surge in personal insolvency over the next year because millions of families remain financially vulnerable.

Research conducted for CCCS by the Financial Inclusion Centre has identified 6.2 million households as financially vulnerable. It found that 3.2 million are 'already in financial difficulty', either three months behind with a debt repayment or are subject to some form of debt action such as insolvency, with a further three million 'at risk' of getting into financial difficulty because they are finding it hard to make ends meet and are vulnerable to increases in household bills.

It says several groups are particularly vulnerable, including two million on low incomes, two million renters and 600,000 lone parent families.

Commenting on the statistics Delroy Corinaldi, director of external affairs at CCCS, said: "There are millions of people teetering on the brink financially, whose household budgets are getting harder to manage every month. They are struggling against pressures such as high inflation, wage freezes and redundancy.

"I fear that many will go insolvent over the next year.

“The key message to anyone who is finding it hard deal with their finances is to seek help as soon as they realise they have a problem. The sooner they deal with their problem, the more can be done to help them. Debt charities such as CCCS can give them advice and support at no cost to them.”

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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](http://www.cccs.co.uk)
5. Follow us on Twitter: @CCCSPressOffice

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