



Tel: 0207 391 4583

Website: www.cccs.co.uk

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Press Release

Self employed debtors less able to repay what they owe

Self employed debtors are far less able to repay their debts than those who are not according to figures published today by leading debt charity Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS). The debt charity's specialist Self Employed Centre helped over 10,000 people deal with their debts last year with only 17 percent being recommended a debt management plan (DMP). This is markedly less than the average of 27 percent for CCCS clients overall.

Similarly, 48 percent of people contacting the CCCS Self Employed Centre could only be recommended to increase their income compared to 31 percent across the charity as a whole. Despite these differences, at nine percent, self employed clients have almost the same proportion of bankruptcy recommendations as the average for CCCS clients (9.6 percent).

CCCS says that part of the problem is that an increasing number of people who have been made redundant are deciding to set up their own business instead of seeking employment elsewhere. This can put pressure on an already difficult personal finance situation. One trend that CCCS is currently seeing is people undertaking driving instructor courses but finding it hard to secure work after the course is completed.

Geoff Waugh, head of the CCCS Self Employed Centre, comments: "The problem for most self employed people who seek our help with their debts is that they have very low income levels. Not only are a large proportion not earning enough to repay what they owe, a significant number don't earn enough to cover the cost of day-to-day living."

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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:

All media enquiries should be directed to:

Frances Walker - francesw@cccs.co.uk

Una Farrell - unaf@cccs.co.uk

Angela Barrett - angelab@cccs.co.uk

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