

Press Release

June 6 2011

Struggling debtors work until Wednesday afternoon just to pay debts

The average person seeking help from Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS), the UK's leading debt charity, has to work until 4pm on Wednesday each week just to earn enough to repay their unsecured debts.

They then have the remainder of the working week to earn what they need to pay for their basic living costs including their mortgage. The new figures from the charity, which was contacted by 418,000 people last year, highlight the pressure those who are trying to meet their living costs and tackle debts at the same time are under.

The average person contacting CCCS in 2010 owed a total of £22,476 on credit cards, personal loans, overdrafts and other types of unsecured debt – and faced a monthly bill of £675.52 just to meet their repayments. This figure made up a worrying 58 percent of the average CCCS client's earnings of £1,173.23 a month after tax.

Delroy Corinaldi, external affairs director at CCCS, says: "With rising prices continuing to push up the cost of living, household budgets are under increasing pressure – and these figures show how difficult it can be to escape from debt once it builds up. Our advice to anyone struggling to cope with their repayments is to seek free advice as early as possible."

CCCS provides free and confidential debt advice via its telephone helpline on 0800 138 1111 and anonymous online tool, *CCCS Debt Remedy*, at www.cccs.co.uk

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Notes to editors:

1. Figures assume a 37.5 hour working week of 9 to 5pm each day.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The CCCS free phone helpline 0800 138 1111 is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.
5. CCCS *Debt Remedy* is available at www.cccs.co.uk
6. 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

Matt Hartley - matthar@cccs.co.uk

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