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Press Release

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CCCS response to face-to-face debt advice funding announcement

Leading debt charity Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) welcomes the Government's announcement that £27 million of funding for the face-to-face debt advice programme has been secured for the next year.

Delroy Corinaldi, CCCS External Affairs Director, comments:

"We welcome the reprieve for the Financial Inclusion Fund as it helps deal with current uncertainties over the availability of face-to-face debt advice, although we are concerned that any reduction in the amount should not impact on peoples' ability to get free face-to-face debt advice.

"This should put free advice in a place where it can continue to take on the fee-charging sector which the recent Office of Fair Trading review found to be unfit for purpose.

"The challenge now is for debt charities to work together to provide free debt advice, face-to-face, over the phone and online, for those who need it.

"The next few years are likely to be very difficult for many people due to stagnating household budgets and rising costs but given CCCS's capacity on its helpline and online debt counselling, there is no need for anyone to pay for debt advice."

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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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