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## **Press Release**

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### **CCCS meets rising demand for help with debt**

Leading debt charity Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) has today supported warnings by price comparison website *moneysupermarket.com* about fee charging debt management companies that take several monthly payments as an up front fee before creditors receive any money. It warns those already struggling with debt about the serious damage this can do to their credit rating as the more months that pass without creditors being paid off, the worse their credit record becomes.

The debt charity increased its capacity during 2009 in response to rising demand and is urging people to contact its free phone debt helpline or use its online debt counselling tool *Debt Remedy* for free and quick debt advice.

Delroy Corinaldi, CCCS Director of External Affairs comments: "It is a myth that fee charging debt management companies provide a faster service than the free debt counselling and support that debt charities such as the CCCS provide. We have seen a rise in demand for our services over the past few years and have deliberately increased our capacity to meet this demand."

"Ultimately it comes down to the question - Why pay for something that you can get for free?"

The CCCS helpline is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, on 0800 138 1111 or at anytime online from [www.cccs.co.uk](http://www.cccs.co.uk). There is no charge for any of its services.

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**Notes to editors:**

1. CCCS received over 335,000 calls to its helplines in 2009, a 19 per cent increase on 2008.
2. 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:**

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