



Press Release

04th February 2011

Debt charity reassures consumers over funding cuts

Specialist debt advice charity [Debt Advice Foundation](#) is appealing to people with financial problems to get in touch, as it fears people will no longer know where to turn for specialist free advice.

Last week the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) announced that 35 debt management firms had surrendered their consumer credit licenses after it had found widespread problems with compliance among commercial debt management firms (1). Hot on the heels of the OFT announcement, the Citizens Advice Bureau has confirmed this week that 500 of its debt advisors are unable to take on any more new cases, due to government funding cuts (2).

David Rodger, Managing Director of the Debt Advice Foundation, comments "People struggling to repay their debts are facing a double dilemma - a dramatic reduction in government funded services and a lack of trust in commercial advice.

"At a time when unemployment continues to grow and demand for [debt advice](#) is expected to reach record levels, its vital that people in need of help know where to turn and who to trust. Charity services like our own Debt Advice Foundation helpline, CCCS and National Debtline remain open to the growing numbers of people who need us. We are of course also hoping CAB will find away to continue as it accounts for around 70% of the Debt Relief Order resource the UK has."

"Our charity does not rely on Government funding, and we have the capacity to help more people and deal with new enquiries. We don't ask people to wait or to book an appointment, simply to call our helpline or to download the support tools on our website."

Debt Advice Foundation's helpline advisors are available Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm and Saturday, 9am to 5pm on 0800 2922077. The charity also offers online self-help tools and information at www.debtadvicefoundation.org/help.

Ends

Further information: Contact the press office on 0800 779 71 36 / 0788 973 60 44 or email pressoffice@debtadvicefoundation.org

Editors Notes

(1) www.ofc.gov.uk/news-and-updates/press/2011/10-11

(2) www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-12330429

About Debt Advice Foundation

Debt Advice Foundation's telephone helpline service is available six days a week on 0800 2922077, lines are open from 8am-8pm Mon-Fri and 9am – 5pm on Saturdays.

Debt Advice Foundation is a registered charity, with the following objectives:

- Provide free, impartial and appropriate advice to people with unaffordable debt.
- Help people with debt problems to gain free access to solutions that will help them.
- Promote the education of young people in money management so as to reduce the likelihood they will mis-use debt later in their lives.
- Undertake or fund research to understand why problem debt happens and its effect on individuals, families and the wider UK economy.
- To use this evidence to become a force for beneficial change within the credit and debt solutions industry and to work with government to bring about legislative change to benefit UK consumers.

Debt Advice Foundation features on the following websites as sources of free and impartial advice:

- Directgov (www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/DG_184112)

- Money Made Clear (Financial Services Authority)
(www.moneymadeclear.org.uk/help/useful_links.html#debt_help)
- HMRC (www.hmrc.gov.uk/payinghmrc/problems/debt-help.htm#9)
- Financial Ombudsman (www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/links/links.html)
- Consumer Focus (www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/links/links.html)
- Which? (Consumer Association) (www.which.co.uk/advice/how-to-deal-with-debt/useful-contacts/index.jsp)