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Release... Do You Get What You Pay For?

Debt management companies may have cash to throw at glossy adverts during *The Jeremy Kyle Show*, but why on earth do we use them for a service that's available free, more suitable and much better elsewhere?

Over the weekend I popped into the Co-op to buy a meat and potato pie. They said I could have a lovely fresh organic one for free, but I said no. Instead I went next door and asked if I could pay over the odds for a less tasty one.

Sounds like the Monty Python version of a Victoria Wood sketch, doesn't it? Why would anyone pay for something that is available free, more suitable and frankly much better elsewhere? The Commercial debt management companies have money (your money!!) to burn on adverts on daytime TV. The adverts may have a friendly, non-judgemental tone and the promise of a quick fix but do we realise the charges involved and the consequences?

Research by both the Office of Fair Trading and Which? has unveiled a long list of reasons to avoid debt management companies. These include: poor advice; high fees and charges; a lack of effective regulation; commission-led sales

and; in some cases, the risk that your payments will never reach your creditors.

Avoid any debt help of loan consolidation companies that advertise on the TV or in some newspapers. Their job is to make money out of you, plain and simple. While in the short term their plans will make your payments lower, in the long run it'll cost you dear. Avoid them. Don't touch them. Don't go near them.

The bottom line is this – as far as money, debt and housing advice is concerned get free and independent advice from the likes of national organisations such as Consumer Credit Counselling Service, National Debtline and Citizen's Advice Bureaux. Also, locally, Release. . .

So remember, you do not always get what you pay for!

For further details and support on these matters please contact RELEASE (Financial) Charitable Trust on 01773 306289 or 07805 795748.

www.releaseonline.org.uk

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If there are any topics you would like us to cover relating to money/debt issues please contact us.