

Press Release

9 DECEMBER 2021

AdviceUK calls on MaPS to PRESS PAUSE

Today AdviceUK Steve Johnson wrote to the CEO of the Money and Pensions Service (MaPS), Caroline Siarkiewicz, to ask her to pause MaPS's procurement process for debt advice in England.

At the same time, AdviceUK called on MaPS to conduct a full consultation on its proposals, publish an Equality Impact Assessment and to extend its current funding arrangements until the consultation process is complete.

In his letter, Johnson has explained that the nature of the contracts on offer from MaPS exclude smaller and medium sized debt organisations from bidding and that the allocation of resources to online and telephone channels means that many vulnerable people who depend upon face-to-face debt advice will not be able to access it.

Steve Johnson said: -

"It is unacceptable for MaPS not to consult on the biggest shake-up in debt advice funding in many years and not to publish an Equality Impact Assessment that sets out the impact of its plans on some of the most vulnerable people in society. MaPS must ensure that smaller debt advice organisations are able to bid for future funding and that vulnerable people will be able to access the face-to-face debt advice that they need".

For further details please see the [PRESS PAUSE campaign page on our website](#).

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For media enquiries contact: -

David Hawkes, Policy and Campaigns Co-ordinator, AdviceUK:

07932 963 701 | david.hawkes@adviceuk.org.uk

Notes for editors: -

1. AdviceUK is a charity supporting independent organisations that give free advice to members of the public. Established in 1979, with 786 members we are the largest network of independent advice centres in the UK.
2. Our members work in some of the poorest parts of the UK, often with marginalised communities, helping people to solve their legal and social welfare problems.
3. For more information on AdviceUK please visit the AdviceUK website at www.adviceuk.org.uk
4. To enquire about membership or participation in any of our extended category schemes or any of the services AdviceUK offers, please contact the AdviceUK membership team on membership@adviceuk.org.uk