

If you are worried about
your debts, contact us.

www.caew.org.uk
tel 0808 812 7087

Citizens Advice Elmbridge (West)
is an independent advice agency.
Our advice is free, impartial
and confidential.

We are authorised by the Financial Conduct
Authority (FRN 617782) for debt advice.

What is your debt?

Understanding priority
and non-priority debts.



Debt is any money you owe to a person or business (known as the creditor). Not all debt is bad, most people have to borrow money at some point such as a mortgage or student loan.

Debt becomes a problem when you can't keep up with the payments that you agreed to. These missed payments are known as **arrears**.



Priority debts:

If ignored, priority debts can cause serious problems. Creditors could make you homeless, cut off your gas and electricity, or even put you at risk of going to prison.

Priority debts include arrears on:

-  Rent
-  Mortgage
-  Council Tax
-  Gas / Electric
-  TV License Payments
-  Court Fines
-  Child maintenance



Non-priority debts:

Non-priority debts cause less serious problems. You can't be sent to prison or evicted for not paying, but you may be taken to court. If that happens, bailiffs could be sent to take some of your belongings to cover the debt.

Non-priority debts include arrears on:

-  Bank Loans
-  Overdrafts
-  Credit Cards
-  Store Cards
-  Unpaid Water Bills
-  Unpaid Parking Tickets
-  Money you owe family or friends

