

“Consumers misled on debt advice”

Well, it was bound to happen at some stage in the downturn. Needless to say, the unscrupulous have rarely shown much moral aptitude when it comes to conning the vulnerable in society but the latest little ruse really takes the biscuit. Eleven financial management businesses have actually created look-alike websites posing as official or charity advice sites hoping to reel in those consumers searching for debt advice online.

The sites have been using similar or slightly amended domain names implying they are affiliated to debt charity organisations such as Citizens Advice and the Consumer Credit Counselling Service.

Commenting, Phil Wood, managing director of chartered accountants and licensed insolvency practitioners, Barringtons said, “The Office of Fair Trading, rarely known for baring its teeth too often, has now taken fairly swift action against these companies following a number of complaints. When seeking advice on line, it is vitally important for consumers to be ever vigilant.”