

Budget welcomed by clutterholics across the UK

The majority of the country may not have welcomed a budget of cutbacks in spending and increases in taxes, but one company says it'll actually help people focus on dealing with their problem, rather than their problem continuing to grow like the countries debt.

Clare Baker, who runs The Clutter Clearing Consultancy www.clutterclearing.net says: 'the budget is great for us and our clients. Higher VAT pushing prices up and higher taxes reducing disposable income means they have fewer impulse buys that they buy 'just in case' or because it was a 'bargain' but never use. Put simply, the budget means clutterholics will think twice about buying things that turn into clutter.'

Unfortunately, for many it still means they've got the backlog of clutter that they bought during the boom, or during last year while they could. Many of our clients had clutter that grew during the boom – just like the countries debt. They bought things they didn't need, never used and ultimately put away because it 'might come in useful'. Many said they couldn't pass a shop with a special offer advertised in the window without going and buying something in case the offer ran out or they needed that thing one day.'

It's also good news for Clare and her team of clutter consultants across the UK. 'Clutterholics may stop acquiring as much clutter as they had before the budget, but they've still got the backlog to clear. They can't afford to move to a bigger home so if they want more space then they have to clear the backlog. It's why we've seen an increase in demand for our help over the past 18 months since the recession began in all areas of our work - by going to people's homes, coaching them on the telephone and on-line sales of downloads.'

According to a survey of Clare's 400 top tip subscribers – people who have signed up for help to de-clutter and get organised:

- 39.5% of people gave their unwanted clutter to charity in 2008, but now only 17.6% do
- 26.8% of people say they don't know where to start with clearing their clutter
- 25% of people want to clear their clutter in one go with a weekend blitz
- 21.4% of people have had their clutter for 10 years or more
- 18% of people haven't got a clue HOW to clear their clutter
- 17% of people struggle with finding the time to clear their clutter
- 7.9% of people look on the internet to find out if their clutter is worth anything (1.2% in 2008)
- 4.2% of people go to a car boot sale to sell their unwanted clutter (0.7% in 2008)

As Clare says 'it's interesting that the desire to clear the clutter has actually increased as a result of the recession, despite the change in motivation. People are literally banking on their unwanted clutter being another person's treasure'.

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Notes to editors:

1. Clare Baker set up and runs The Clutter Clearing Consultancy – **www.clutterclearing.net**
2. Clare Baker is available for interviews, discussions, phone-ins etc on clutter clearing issues.
3. Clare Baker has contributed to articles on the issue of clutter for many well known magazines, newspapers and the BBC radio network.
4. The Clutter Clearing Consultancy has a weekly **FREE** top tip that people can sign up for on-line.
6. Details of unusual things found amongst the clutter (including a pickled monkey) can be found on the website at: <http://www.clutterclearing.net/Unusual-finds.asp>

Please call one of the following numbers to book an interview with Clare.

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