

A Brief History: Why Debt Still Matters Today

Debt is not a modern invention

- Its origins stretch back to **3000–3500 BCE** in ancient Mesopotamia, where clay tablets recorded early loans, interest, and repayment obligations often linked to commodities like barley or silver.
- **By 1750 BCE** the Code of Hammurabi had already formalised interest rates and introduced some of the earliest protections for debtors.
- **Fast forward 5,000 years** and while civilisation has evolved dramatically, the role of debt has only grown.
- **Today** debt underpins a global, digital economy. Businesses rely on credit to operate, yet late payments and financial pressure remain major challenges. The need to manage debt responsibly and protect cashflow is as critical now as it was thousands of years ago.

Contact us

If you'd like to explore how we can support your credit and debt recovery needs, please feel free to speak with one of our solicitors.

You can send us an email or call us at:
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How We Can Help

DMH Stallard is one of the UK's leading debt recovery teams, recognised as a Tier 1 law firm in The Legal 500 and winner of multiple industry awards. We deliver fast, effective, and commercially focused solutions that minimise disruption and maximise recovery. Our clients benefit from clear communication, strategic thinking, and a proven track record in resolving debts through negotiation, mediation, or litigation where needed.

Working with us gives you access to specialist solicitors, robust legal processes, and a fully integrated service covering pre-action credit control support right through to enforcement. We take pressure off your internal teams, ensure compliance, and handle outstanding debts proactively and professionally.

What Makes Us Different?

Unlike many legal teams, I lead the debt recovery practice not as a lawyer, but as a credit industry professional with over a decade of hands-on experience across goods-based and service-based sectors. I've worked inside businesses, so I understand the operational realities, the need to safeguard customer relationships, and the commercial pressures that come with late payments.

My perspective is commercial rather than legal, and that distinction genuinely matters. It means our focus isn't just on recovering debts, it's on helping your credit control team strengthen the processes that prevent them in the first place. By working with you to improve invoicing, refine terms and conditions, and streamline chasing routines, we reduce the number of accounts that ever need to reach the legal stage. Fewer cases going legal means lower recovery costs, stronger customer relationships, and far less risk to future sales. We believe in a proactive approach, not a reactive one, and for you, that means Less chasing, more growing.