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## **Boomerang Kids**

***- Crushing debt is forcing Britain's singles back home -***

- 4.3 million singles over 25 now live with their parents
- 54% of these owe £10,000 to £20,000 in unsecured debt and 21% owe a further £20,000 to £50,000.

Four out of ten (43 %) of Britain's 15 million single people say they are unable to buy or rent their own property due to rising house prices and unrealistic rents. What's more, crushing debt is forcing a record number of singles to move back home. Just under one third (29%) of singles – that's 4.3 million people - between the ages of 25 and 50 now live with their parents.

The European Singles Lifestyle Study by dating & relationship experts PARSHIP.com also found that Britain's singles are falling way behind their European neighbours when it comes to independent living, with just four out of ten (42%) living by themselves. On average, 56% of all European singles live alone - including a massive 81% of the Swiss, 77% of Austrians and 66% of Germans. Only the Italians and Spanish were less independent than Britain, which respectively saw 56% and 43% of all singles aged between 25 and 50 now living at home.

And if living with the parents isn't difficult enough, financial pressures are also forcing 3% of single people to live under the same roof as their ex-partners.

But it's British men who are driving the trend to stay at home forever, with over a third (36%) of single men aged between 25 and 50 now living with their parents. That compares to just 20% of British women.

Tony Blin-Stoyle, UK Director of PARSHIP.co.uk, commented:

"For many singles, particularly between the ages of 25 and 50, renting never mind buying a property is now just a pipe dream. With no real assets, just a growing burden of debt, their only chance of a parent-free existence is to plunge themselves into more debt, or form a relationship with someone who is willing to share the rent or has the assets to buy a property."

According to new research by debt consultancy Thomas Charles ([www.thomascharles.com](http://www.thomascharles.com)), over half (54%) of people who live with their parents owe £10,000 to £20,000 in unsecured debt and a further 21% owe between £20,000 and £50,000. Similarly, people recently divorced or separated owe twice as much as a married or living as married couple. Over one third (37%) now have unsecured debt of £10,000 to £20,000 and 32% owe as much as £50,000.

Stewart Ross, as spokesperson from Thomas Charles, commented:

”We have recently seen a sharp increase in the number of people with debt problems who have had to move back in with their parents either due to the legacy of student debt, or who have recently been separated or divorced from their partners.”

With house prices north of the border now estimated at an average of £132,207 - as against £315,224 in London – it’s little surprise that Scottish singles are the most likely to live alone, with 62% of 25 to 50-years-olds buying or renting their own property, followed by 47% of the Welsh and 46% of singles from the North of England and the Midlands. Singles from London are the least likely to live alone, with only 43% earning enough to buy their domestic independence.

**- Ends -**

For Further information, a copy of the research or case studies, please contact Penny Lukats on 020 7014 4046, 07775992350 or email [penny@parship.co.uk](mailto:penny@parship.co.uk)

**Notes to editors:**

**About the research:**

**The European Singles Lifestyle Study** - 5,800 singles, male and female, were interviewed in the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Holland, Austria and Switzerland. The research was coordinated and compiled by renowned German research institute, INNOFACT AG.

**Thomas Charles Study** - 1,366 British adults were questioned by YouGov on their current outstanding unsecured debt.

**About PARSHIP**

PARSHIP.co.uk is the UK's first psychometric online dating service, specifically for people who are serious about forming a lasting relationship. It is the British subsidiary of Europe's largest and most successful online dating service, now with over 1.8 million members, who are predominantly affluent, educated men and women between 28 and 55 years old. Since its launch in Germany in 2001, PARSHIP has matched thousands of single people who are serious about forming a long-lasting relationship.

The first step is an 80-question psychometric test. The results of the test create a fascinating profile of each member's personality. Using methods based on years of scientific research, this profile is then carefully matched with the profiles of other members whose balance of similar and complementary characteristics marks them out as a potential partner for the new member. Research suggests that people are twice more likely to form a lasting relationship with PARSHIP's help than they are through any other method.

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