

Welcome to issue 14 of the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme (SIBSS) Newsletter

Infected Blood Compensation Update

Deadline for new applications to Infected Blood Support Schemes

The four UK-wide Infected Blood Support Schemes will close to new applications on 31 March 2025, as part of transitional arrangements with the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA). This applies to new applications only.

The schemes will remain open beyond this date for those already registered. Existing scheme members will continue to receive regular support payments and be able to contact the schemes as normal. You do not need to take any action.

If you know anyone not yet registered with a support scheme but who may be eligible, please let them know about this and encourage them to apply as soon as possible.

Everyone registered with a support scheme will automatically be eligible for compensation via the infected blood compensation scheme, to be delivered by IBCA. IBCA is already starting to work through the compensation process with some applicants, but hopes to be able to give more details soon about when more support scheme members can apply.

Responsibility for your support payments will transfer to IBCA in the future, on a date yet to be determined - we will update you once this has been confirmed. However, please don't worry as you won't need to do anything in order to keep getting your payments.

We are working with IBCA to make the transition from SIBSS as seamless as possible, especially in cases where people are facing very trying circumstances. For that reason if an existing infected scheme member dies between 1 January and 31 March 2025, their estate will have three months from date of death to apply for a bereavement lump sum payment.

In addition, newly-bereaved partners of existing scheme members who die between 1 January and 31 March 2025 will also have three months from date of death to apply for support payments.

Please note you can click on the link to 'register your interest to help shape the service' to receive updates on the compensation scheme and be invited to give feedback. If you don't have internet access, you can instead call the IBCA on 0141 726 2397 to register your interest. Lines are open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/infected-blood-compensation-authority>

Preparations for the transfer to IBCA

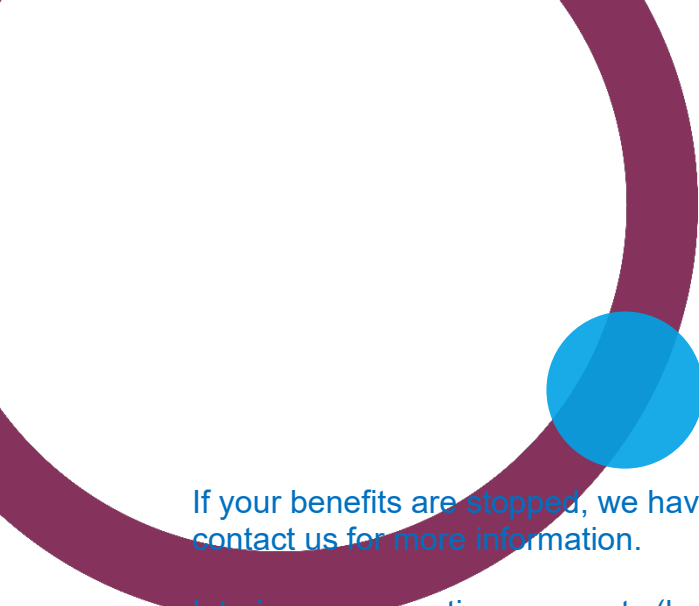
While your monthly or quarterly payments will continue as normal there are a few changes being made to the support schemes to help IBCA prepare as more people start to claim compensation.

Firstly, beneficiaries will not be able to apply to change payment categories after 31 March 2025. This is because IBCA needs to ensure it has accurate information from all the schemes about each person's payment levels when they apply for compensation. Therefore, if you think you should be in a different category from your current payment category (for example if you are in the chronic hepatitis C moderately affected category and wish to change your self-assessment) please apply to move categories before 31 March 2025. If you want to change categories after that date, you will be able to tell IBCA your condition has changed when you apply for compensation.

Secondly, you can continue to apply for any discretionary grants until you receive your offer of compensation from IBCA as IBCA needs to know what grants you have been awarded to calculate your compensation. From 1 April 2025, the value of most grants you receive will be deducted from your final compensation package – however the Scottish Government does not expect any grants for private counselling to be deducted. If you have any queries or want to access other support such as benefits advice and are not sure what that may mean for your compensation application, please let us know.

DWP / Benefits Help

If there are any queries from DWP, HMRC or your local Council in relation to your income from the scheme we have guidance that we can provide. If you have any problems or you are invited to a formal interview, then you may wish to call or email SIBSS staff – they can provide you with a letter to confirm the payments you have received from SIBSS and confirm that these payments should be disregarded.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, featuring a large, thick, dark blue arc and a smaller, solid blue circle positioned where the arc curves.

Interim compensation payments (both the £100,000 and £210,000 payments) do not need to be taken into account when calculating your income tax bill, any entitlement to means-tested benefits or financial assessment for charges for those living in residential care, as long as you live in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, [The Post Office Horizon Compensation and Infected Blood Interim Compensation Payment Schemes \(Tax Exemptions and Relief\) Regulations 2023](#) also exempts interim compensation payments from inheritance tax and capital gains tax from 28 October 2022 onwards.

Psychology Support

The Scottish Infected Blood Psychology Service has been open to referrals since September 2021. Individuals have accessed the service for support with a wide range of concerns, including grief, trauma, low mood, and problems within relationships. Most appointments have taken place by telephone or video conferencing, thereby enabling equitable access to the service from a variety of geographical locations. However, face to face contact can be arranged, where needed. Feedback from patients has been very positive.

The service is based at the Astley Ainslie Hospital in NHS Lothian by staff who have an understanding of the current and historical context of infected blood in the UK. We are aware that many individuals are currently being greatly affected by the ongoing events from the Infected Blood Inquiry. Although the service is hosted by NHS Lothian, it is a Scotland-wide service and can also be accessed by people who no longer live in Scotland.

The service also has a website: <https://www.sibps.scot.nhs.uk/>. Please see the website for details on how to self-refer to the service. If you have any questions about the service, we can be reached by telephone on 0131 537 9128.

Please note this service will continue to be available to those infected or affected after beneficiaries accept compensation and support payments move to IBCA so this service is separate from SIBSS and will not be affected by any of the changes discussed above.

New Faces

We have 2 new colleagues in SIBSS. Brooke started in June and Leigh started in October. This is to help with the Interim Compensation Estate claims and support the transition to the new Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA).

Emails from SIBSS

If you receive emails from us, can we ask that you periodically check your Junk folders as we have had a couple of messages to say that they seem to be ending up there instead of Inboxes.

Did you know?

- If you do not have access to the internet, or prefer to talk directly, the SIBSS team are happy to give advice and assistance over the phone.
- If you receive a regular payment; you can request a monthly remittance advice to be sent to you.
- You need to inform us if you move address or your circumstances change. See link to change of detail form. [SIBSS Change of Details Form](#)

Contact Us

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