



Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme

Welcome to issue 10 of the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme (SIBSS)

Infected Blood UK Inquiry Interim Payment

All members should have received a letter or email regarding the UK Inquiry £100,000 interim payment announced by the UK Government on 17 August 2022.

The announcement advised that infected individuals and bereaved partners who are registered with any of the four UK infected blood support schemes will receive an interim payment of £100,000.

As you are an existing SIBSS member, we already hold your bank details. The payment will be made into the account used for your monthly payment. However, some bank accounts, such as ISA savings accounts, have a limit to how much can be deposited annually. The bank may refuse to accept this payment therefore it is imperative that you check with your bank and if they apply a limit then you may have to use another account. If you have not already done this, please telephone your bank and confirm that they will accept such a large amount. If this affects you, please give us a call to sort out alternative arrangements.

We will write again when we know the date of payment.

If you receive any benefits, it is intended that this payment will not affect them, but you should declare the payment to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Money Advice

There are independent services available which can offer advice on managing your money and finances on our website at – <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/patient-support-schemes/scottish-infected-blood-support-scheme-sibss/find-further-support/>

Rising Energy Costs

Whilst energy bills are so high and expected to rise further, as we approach Autumn and Winter you may find some help and advice from the link below with regard to extra funding at this time.

[Get help with energy bills - mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot)

The winter fuel allowance of £561 will be paid to all eligible beneficiaries with the October payment.

The Scottish Infected Blood Psychology Service (SIBPS)

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. We are working with those who have been affected as a result of being given infected blood or blood products during medical procedures carried out by NHS Scotland. We also work with the family members of those who have acquired hepatitis C and/or HIV as a result of receiving infected blood and blood products. In addition, our service has been accessed by individuals with inherited bleeding disorders, such as haemophilia. Most of our 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.

Our 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 of 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 has also launched a website that is being updated regularly: <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
telephone on 0131 537

about the service, we can be reached by
9128.

Website Improvements

The website has been updated to meet accessibility standards – see link to new, improved website.

[Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme \(SIBSS\)](#)

We have also added video guidance to assist members with the self-assessment application process – see link to video - <https://youtu.be/HAz4a2INCxg>

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](#)

Links Section

[Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme \(SIBSS\)](#)
[Grant Information](#)
[Support Groups](#)
[Scottish Government Website](#)
[Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Contact Us

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