

## Welcome to issue 15 of the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme (SIBSS) Newsletter

### Infected Blood Compensation Update

The Infected Blood Compensation Authority continues to progress compensation claims from those infected and registered with SIBSS and the other UK support schemes.

The IBCA will contact you to invite you to start your compensation claim, you do not need to contact them to initiate your claim.

You can find out more about the numbers of claims the IBCA has processed and sign up for regular updates on the development of the service on the [IBCA website](#). 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).

The Infected Blood Inquiry held additional hearings on 7 and 8 May in response to concerns from infected and affected communities about the way compensation is being implemented and the time it is taking.

The Inquiry has indicated that it intends to publish an additional report on compensation. Any further recommendations made by the IBI will be considered by the UK Government and IBCA.

### Funeral Grants

As explained in the previous newsletter, SIBSS has now closed to new applications.

In the absence of bereavement payments being available, we have now reintroduced the availability of one-off grant payments to help with the costs of a funeral for a SIBSS member who was an infected beneficiary, and passed away after 31 March 2025, up to the value of £4,500.

As is the case with most other discretionary grants, any grants for funeral costs will now be deducted from your final compensation package.

To apply for this grant, please use the application form on the [SIBSS website](#), or speak to one of the team on the contact details below.

### **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.

If your benefits are stopped, we have a Benefits Advisor that can help. Please contact us for more information.

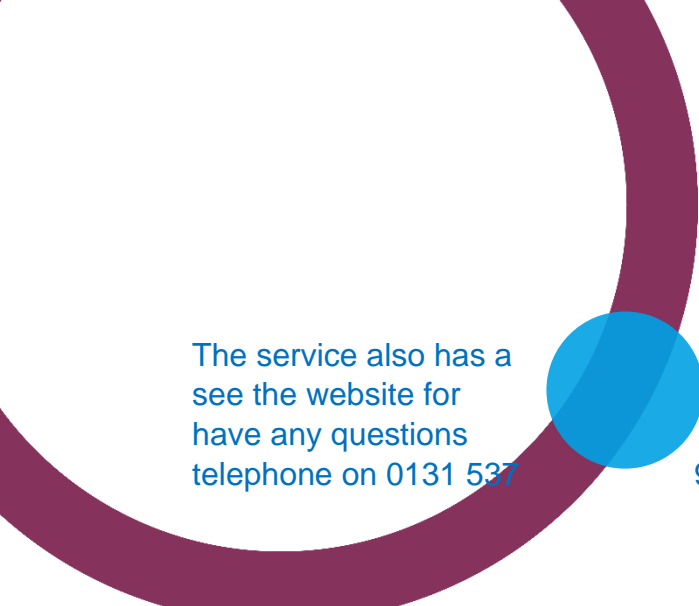
Interim compensation payments (both the £100,000 and £210,000 payments) do not need to be taken into account when calculating your income tax bill, any entitlement to means-tested benefits or financial assessment for charges for those living in residential care, as long as you live in the United Kingdom. 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 in NHS Lothian and provided 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  
see the website for  
have any questions  
telephone on 0131 537

website: <https://www.sibps.scot.nhs.uk/>. Please  
details on how to self-refer to the service. If you  
about the service, we can be reached by  
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.

Alternatively, for those beneficiaries living in England, please refer to the new  
[Infected Blood Psychological Service](#) or call 0300 131 0444 Monday to Friday, 9am  
to 5pm.

### **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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