

Cynllun Cynorthwyo Gwaed
wedi'i haentio Cymru

Wales Infected Blood
Support Scheme

WIBSS NEWSLETTER

September 2022

Interim Payments

You will have recently received a letter from WIBSS, detailing the announcement on interim compensation payments made by the UK Government on 17 August 2022.

As an existing WIBSS beneficiary we already hold your bank account details for when we make your existing regular support payments. We plan to make this additional payment into the same account.

However, some banks have a limit on how much can be deposited. We therefore recommend you notify your bank in advance that a lump sum payment is going to be received.

We are currently awaiting further instruction for a date to make these payments. Welsh Government officials, with their counterparts across the UK, are working to resolve the complex issues of tax in full before confirming final details. The intention is to ensure these payments are not subject to income tax, capital gains tax, or inheritance tax.

It is anticipated the payment will be made in late October.

Proof of Income - Mortgages

For those undertaking a new mortgage application or mortgage renewal, we are happy to provide written proof of your WIBSS income. Please get in touch if you require a personalised letter for this purpose (or other related financial purposes).

Our Welfare Rights Team also offer assistance with navigating this often complex process, offering support in obtaining paperwork and understanding forms.



CONTACT US

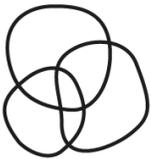
Contact WIBSS on
02920 902280 or email
wibss@wales.nhs.uk

If your call is not answered, please leave a message with your name and a contact number and we will phone you back promptly.

For Psychology and Wellbeing please email:
wibss.wellbeing@wales.nhs.uk

Recent Contact

We take your personal information seriously. If you are in any doubt about the origin of a letter requesting your personal data, that appears as though it is from WIBSS, please contact us on our direct line, **02920 902280**.



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WELFARE RIGHTS

Providing you & your family confidential advice and advocacy around Benefits, Money, Support and more.

Understanding Energy Costs

The recently announced 'energy guarantee' - means from 1 October, households on the standard variable rate (SVR) with typical usage will pay no more than £2,500 per year for each of the next two years.

Every household will receive a £400 energy bills discount from October 22 - Households will get a monthly discount of around £67 on their domestic electricity bill from October 2022 to March 2023. The green levy has also been temporarily suspended, saving an additional £150 a year.

People on means-tested benefits will also receive a further £324 payment, from the UK Government, in the autumn. Those over state pension age will also receive a £300 payment paid in addition to their annual winter fuel payment, from UK Government, in November or December. There is also a £150 payment available for people with disabilities. In addition, you will receive the winter fuel payment of £561 from WIBSS.

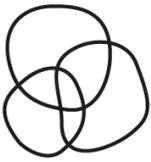
People on means-tested benefits, including Universal Credit, tax credits and Pension Credit may also qualify for the Warm Home Discount of £150. Many suppliers will automatically add this discount for customers. For others, if you think you are eligible for this and have not received it previously, please contact your energy company for assessment.

WIBSS will soon be undertaking an outbound campaign relating to energy efficiency measures and potential savings on your water bills, so please look out for contact soon from your Welfare Rights team.

Historic DWP Underpayments

Between January 2011 and October 2014, some people receiving Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance were reassessed and switched over to contributory ESA.

But the possibility of whether they may also have been entitled to income-related ESA was not considered for all cases. So individuals may have missed out on extra top-ups such as Enhanced Disability, Severe Disability, Carer and Pensioner Premiums. For the past few years the DWP have been reaching out to people who may have been affected and repaying any amounts due, with payments averaging £5,000.



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Whilst the DWP contacted as many people as possible, thousands of individuals may not have provided the information needed to review their case or have been unreachable. Therefore, if you think that you have been affected by ESA underpayments on conversion from previous incapacity benefits and have not been contacted about this, please call 0800 169 0310. Or contact your WIBSS welfare Rights Team for more information.

PSYCHOLOGY & WELLBEING TEAM

We recently wrote to you offering social/peer support opportunities. We appreciate there were a number of high-profile proceedings at the same time and consequently the response was limited, so we want to remind you of the services that are available to you. WIBSS offers a confidential, free of charge psychological assessment and treatment, relating to the emotional difficulties of having been given, and living with, a diagnosis of Hepatitis C and/or HIV. This service is available to both yourselves and your family members. If you wish to get in contact, the dedicated team can be contacted on 029 20196141, or by email: wibss.wellbeingsservice@wales.nhs.uk.

We wish you all well this autumn,
The WIBSS Team

