

Cynllun Cynorthwyo Gwaed
wedi'i haentio Cymru

Wales Infected Blood
Support Scheme



CONTACT US

WIBSS NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Child Payments

The Welsh Government Minister for Health and Social Services has recently agreed to the introduction of Discretionary Child Payments as part of the Wales Infected Blood Support Scheme. These payments will be available, with effect from 1st January 2023.

The payment is intended for the care and support of a child/children, up to the age of 18 or 21, if in full-time education, who are either the biological child or form part of the household of an infected beneficiary (this can be an adopted child/children or the child/children of a partner of an infected beneficiary with whom they live). The payment will be £3,000 for the first child & £1,200 for the second and any subsequent children.

If you believe this applies to you or your household, please contact us on 02920 902280. An application form and guidance note will be available from January. These can be downloaded from the WIBSS website, or hard copies can be sent in the post on request.

Christmas Hours

In line with previous years, WIBSS will be operating business as usual office hours throughout the Christmas period, but with some staff taking a well-earned break. Please note due to bank holidays, the office will be unavailable on December 26th, 27th and Jan 2nd, 2023.

December payments have been processed and will be received no later than December 20th.

Website Satisfaction

We have recently added a feedback section for improving our WIBSS website, if you have any comments.

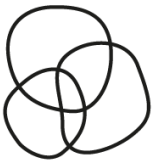
Contact WIBSS on
02920 902280 or email
wibss@wales.nhs.uk

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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Communication Preferences

If you have opted to receive emails from WIBSS, you will recognise that our standard email address is wibss@wales.nhs.uk. From December 2022 we will be using a new email supplier, so emails will be received from WIBSS@notifications.service.gov.uk. If you are receiving this newsletter or other WIBSS correspondence, including remittance advice, via post, but would prefer this digitally in future, contact us at wibss@wales.nhs.uk to request a change.

WELFARE RIGHTS

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

Extra Help – Pensioner Households

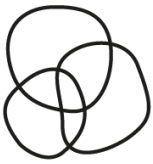
Did you know the DWP estimate that £1.7 billion of Pension Credit went unclaimed by up to 1 million pensioner households in the financial year 2021/2022?

Pension Credit is a weekly benefit to boost your income. It's based on how much money you have coming in. These are the current rates (set to rise in line with inflation April 2023):

- If your weekly income is below £182.60 then Guarantee Credit will top you up to that amount.
- If you're claiming as a couple and your income is below £278.70 it will be topped up to that amount.

Your income can be higher than £182.60 or £278.70 if you qualify for extra amounts such as the severe disability or carer's addition. Your income can also be higher if you're paying a mortgage.

Any savings or investments over £10,000 will affect the amount of Pension Credit you get. You'll be treated as having £1 per week of income for every £500 above £10,000. **IMPORTANTLY** Funds received from WIBSS and the former infected blood schemes, to include lump sums, monthly/quarterly payments, alongside the interim compensation payment of £100,000, are all **EXCLUDED** from the income and savings calculations. This will only include other sources of income such as state pension, private pension or earnings from employers.



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If you get Pension Credit you can also get other help, such as:

- Housing Benefit if you rent the property you live in
- Support for Mortgage Interest if you own the property you live in
- a free TV licence if you're aged 75 or over
- help with NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments
- help with your heating costs

If you think this could apply to you or someone close to you – please contact your dedicated welfare rights team on 02920 902280 so we can assist you with a benefit check and all steps of the claim.

Psychology & Wellbeing Team

The Emotional Impact of the Infected Blood Inquiry

From talking to people who access our service, the ongoing Infected Blood Inquiry was welcomed as a platform to uncover the truth and understand the circumstances surrounding the delivery of contaminated blood and blood products. The Inquiry, as a focus for some, has been a helpful place to come together to express feelings of loss, anger and helplessness (to name but a few). This has exacerbated by trauma and a strong sense of injustice as people relive difficult memories and experiences from the past.

We appreciate that the desire for justice has been a hope for many and realistically, the outcome of the Inquiry may not meet everyone's expectations. The WIBSS Psychology and Wellbeing Service, therefore, is considering what aspects of support you feel you might need once the Inquiry ends, and community opportunities, with those who share similar experiences, diminish. If you would like to talk to one of the team about your feelings in relation to the Infected Blood Inquiry and are registered with the Wales Infected Blood Support Scheme (or are a family member of someone registered with WIBSS) then please feel free to contact us on: 029 20196141, or alternatively reach us by email: wibss.wellbeing@wales.nhs.uk.

If you are interested in watching the evidence session that Dr Coffey attended; it is available via the IBI website; <https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/evidence/transcript-london-friday-11-november-2022-keith-carter-and-specialist-psychological>.



*We wish you all a pleasant festive
season and Happy New Year,*
The WIBSS Team
