

Cynllun Cynorthwyo Gwaed
wedi'i haentio Cymru

Wales Infected Blood
Support Scheme

WIBSS Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

The Infected Blood Compensation Authority

We are working with the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA), UK Government and Devolved Administrations around transferring responsibility for making regular support payments from the Infected Blood Support Schemes to IBCA.

To prepare for this transition, support schemes will only accept new applications which have been received by 31 March 2025.

All support schemes will remain open after 31 March 2025, and your existing support payments and annual winter fuel payment will continue to be paid.

If an existing 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.

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.

You can still apply for discretionary payments and grants after 31 March 2025, until you receive your offer of compensation from IBCA.

Only support payments and discretionary payments received after 31 March 2025 will be taken into account when IBCA calculates your compensation.

Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA): Telephone 0141 726 2397. Lines are open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

CONTACT US

Contact WIBSS on
02921 500900 or email
wibss@wales.nhs.uk

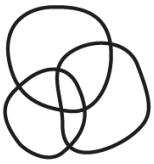
If your call is not answered,
please leave a message with
your name and a contact
number and we
Will phone you back
promptly.

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, **02921 500900**.





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Pension Credit

With the current changes to the government winter fuel payment 2024 affecting pensioners, we want to remind you about pension credit. You need to apply to Pension Credit by December 21st to be entitled to the 2024 winter fuel payment. You must be state pension age to claim. WIBSS money is to be disregarded when calculating any means tested benefit, which includes Pension Credit.

When you apply for Pension Credit your income is calculated. If you have a partner, your income is calculated together.

Pension Credit tops up:

- your weekly income to £218.15 if you're single
- your joint weekly income to £332.95 if you have a partner

If your income is higher, you might still be eligible for Pension Credit if you have a disability, you care for someone, you have savings or you have housing cost.

Your income includes:

- State Pension
- other pensions
- earnings from employment and self-employment
- most social security benefits, for example Carer's Allowance

Any disability benefit, such as Personal Independence Payment, are disregarded when calculating your income for pension credit.

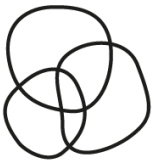
To apply:

Pension Credit claim line

Telephone: 0800 99 1234

Textphone: 0800 169 0133

Online: www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim



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Money Safety

With the compensation scheme starting up, WIBSS wants to remind you to be mindful of fraudsters and scammers, and to please be careful lending money to anybody. Take Five is a national campaign that offers straightforward and impartial advice to help everyone protect themselves from financial fraud. They urge you to stop and consider whether the situation is genuine – to stop and think if what you're being told really makes sense. If you are ever a victim of fraud the Take Five campaign has some advice on what to do - www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk.

Money Helper is a useful government backed website. It provides advice and support on a wide variety of money matters. It provides advice that if you do lend money to anybody, such as a family member, you should put this agreement in writing and come up with a payment plan of how this money is going to be paid back to you.

Money Helper brings together three government backed financial guidance providers: The Money Advice Service, the Pensions Advisory Service and Pension Wise. Money Helper can provide advice on money and pensions and provides handy calculators for example, benefit calculators and mortgage calculators. They provide advice on different bank accounts and savings and general guidance and advice. www.moneyhelper.org.uk.

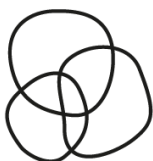
WIBSS Wellbeing and Welfare Rights Team

Following WIBSS recent letter to you regarding data sharing with IBCA, we wanted to advise that all information will be shared with the Claims Managers team at IBCA, to assist them in valuing your compensation claim. The information that will be shared with IBCA as part of this process will include any notes relating to welfare rights and psychological support you may have accessed whilst registered with WIBSS.

If you have any questions regarding this then please feel free to contact the WIBSS Team on 02921 500900 or email vcc.wibss@wales.nhs.uk

Interested in helping us plan and organise a WIBSS community event?

We'd love to hear from people who would like to help us think about how we create an event to bring people together – What should it look like? What format should it take? What would you like to get from it? If this is something that you'd like to know more about or want to be involved, please ring us on 02921 500900 or email Julie directly on julie.armytage@wales.nhs.uk.



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Welfare Rights support

We would like to remind you that we offer a confidential and dedicated service. The team can assist with several issues, including benefit matters, income maximisation, money management, advocacy and general support. The service is available to both you and your family members.

Appointments can be carried out via home visits, over the phone, email or online appointments (Teams). You can get in touch with the team on the number above.

Psychology & Wellbeing Team

We want to remind you of the services that are available to you. WIBSS offers a confidential, free of charge specialist 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 you 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 a Happy Festive
Season**
The WIBSS TEAM