

# Infected Blood Payment Scheme (NI) Newsletter

Issue 8 – April 2026

## Welcome

Welcome to the eighth edition of the Infected Blood Payment Scheme (NI) newsletter. This edition provides an update on your Infected Blood Support Scheme Payment rates for 2026-27 and the latest developments of the UK-wide Infected Blood Compensation Scheme.

## Infected Blood Support Scheme Payments

From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2027, the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA) will be responsible for paying the regular support payments you currently receive from the Infected Blood Payment Scheme (NI) **if you have chosen this option**. Payments will continue to increase annually with inflation. Payment rates for 2026-27 are outlined below.

The NI Scheme will process all final monthly / quarterly payments in January 2027 and IBCA will assume responsibility from February 2027 onwards.

The Managers of all four UK Infected Blood Support Schemes are working closely with IBCA and the UK Government to ensure that regular support payments continue as normal without interruption, as beneficiaries transfer to IBCA throughout the rest of this year.

## Increase to NI Scheme payments for 2026-27

The payment rates on the four UK devolved IBSS increase each year in line with inflation. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate in September is applied and the UK Government has confirmed that payment rates will increase by 3.8% for 2026-27. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026, the rates will be as follows:

Payment Description	2026/27 NI annual rate (100%)	2026/27 NI annual rate (75%*)
Hepatitis C stage 1	£24,179	£18,134
Hepatitis C stage 1 (enhanced)	£36,669	£27,502
Hepatitis C stage 2	£36,669	£27,502
Mono HIV	£36,669	£27,502
Co-Infected (HIV and HCV stage 1)	£49,774	£37,331
Co-Infected (HIV and HCV stage 2)	£57,628	£43,221
Co-Infected enhanced (HIV and HCV stage 1 enhanced)	£57,628	£43,221
Winter fuel	£695	N/A

\* 75% rate applies to bereaved beneficiaries from year 2 onwards.

### Payment dates

Your payment dates for 2026/27 are as follows:

Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> August	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> January*
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	

\* Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2027 will be the final date for monthly/ quarterly payments from the NI Scheme.

## Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Regulations

The third set of infected blood regulations to make changes to the *design and structure* of the compensation scheme came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. These amended the March 2025 regulations, changing of date of transfer from the NI Scheme to IBCA to **1<sup>st</sup> February 2027**. The regulations also implemented five key recommendations from the Infected Blood Inquiry's Additional Report, including:

- removal of the HIV start date (recommendation 3a);
- removal of the minimum earnings threshold for a person to claim the exceptional financial loss award (recommendation 4c);
- changes to the deeming provisions for the severity of Hepatitis C (recommendation 4d);
- changes to affected estates (recommendation 8b);
- date of diagnosis for Hepatitis B and C no longer has to be provided when applying for the scheme (recommendation 4e).

For more information, please visit the Government website:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/infected-blood-compensation-scheme/government-update-on-the-infected-blood-compensation-scheme.html](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infected-blood-compensation-scheme/government-update-on-the-infected-blood-compensation-scheme.html).

## Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Consultation

In October 2025, the UKG launched a 12-week consultation on the remaining eight recommendations from the IBI Additional Report, to help to inform decisions regarding any future changes to the compensation scheme.

On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, the UKG published its response to the consultation and announced changes in response to the following Inquiry recommendations:

- special Category Mechanism and equivalents (Recommendation 4b);
- severe Psychological Harm (Recommendation 5a);
- impacts of Interferon (Recommendation 4a);
- financial loss and care (Recommendation 6a);
- supplementary route – exceptional loss award (Recommendation 6b);
- supplementary route – affected people (Recommendation 8a);
- additional autonomy award for victims of unethical research (Recommendation 7a-c).

The changes to the compensation scheme will be made through secondary legislation in 2026. For further information on the consultation and UKG response please visit: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-proposed-changes-to-the-infected-blood-compensation-scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-proposed-changes-to-the-infected-blood-compensation-scheme)

## IBCA feedback

IBCA and Cabinet Office have launched a new route to raise concerns about the design and delivery infected blood compensation scheme, in direct response to Recommendation 2e of the Inquiry's Additional Report. If you have concerns, please email [feedbackandconcerns@ibca.org.uk](mailto:feedbackandconcerns@ibca.org.uk)

## Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Latest

By 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026, IBCA had invited almost 4,000 beneficiaries from across the UK to begin their compensation claims. To date, around 3,200 people have accepted their compensation offer, with more than £2.05 billion having been paid out so far in compensation.

IBCA has now invited the majority of infected beneficiaries registered with an Infected Blood Support Scheme to begin their compensation claims, and

have begun to make payments to living infected people who have never received financial support, those representing a deceased infected person and to other affected people.

## Online registration with IBCA

In October 2025, IBCA launched a registration service to help prioritise cases. The registration service is for all people who are yet to make a claim for compensation and for claims on behalf of the estates of deceased infected beneficiaries, who sadly passed away without receiving compensation.

To date, well over 18,000 registrations have been received from people who plan to make a compensation claim.

If you are yet to do so, please register your intent to claim for compensation at: [www.ibca.org.uk/register/register-your-intent-to-claim](http://www.ibca.org.uk/register/register-your-intent-to-claim).

## IBCA Community drop in event

IBCA is hosting a community drop-in event in Belfast City Centre (venue to be confirmed) on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026. This informal event will take place in the afternoon and will be an opportunity to meet IBCA staff face to face and to talk about the UK wide compensation service.

Registration will open approximately 4 weeks prior to the event. For the latest updates please visit [www.ibca.org.uk/events](http://www.ibca.org.uk/events)

## Keep up to date with IBCA via social media

The IBCA has its own website and social media channels to provide the latest news and updates on the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme:

Website:

[www.ibca.org.uk](http://www.ibca.org.uk)

YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/@IBCA\\_UK](http://www.youtube.com/@IBCA_UK)

X:

[https://x.com/IBCA\\_UK](https://x.com/IBCA_UK)

## IBCA Mailing List

If you wish to learn more about IBCA and the Infected blood compensation scheme as it develops, you can join the IBCA mailing list. Please telephone 0141 726 2397 or join on the IBCA website

at: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Z55REY/>.

## Infected Blood Inquiry

In February 2026, Chair of the Inquiry Sir Brian Langstaff wrote to people infected and affected to announce that the Infected Blood Inquiry's work would come to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

The Inquiry has fulfilled its terms of reference and has now permanently closed. All documents disclosed to core participants throughout the Inquiry will be transferred to The National Archives and arrangements are being finalised for the official handover of the Inquiry Memorial to the University of Manchester, where it will be permanently housed.

For more information please visit:

[www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/news/inquiry-chair-writes-inquiry-participants](http://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/news/inquiry-chair-writes-inquiry-participants)

## New Infected Blood Liaison Group launched

In Northern Ireland, a new Independent Infected Blood Liaison Group (IIBLG) has been formally established under the umbrella of the Inquiries Implementation Programme Management Board (IIPMB). The Group held its first meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

The group is to be co-chaired by Brian O'Hagan, an independent facilitator, and aims to ensure that the voices and experiences of the infected and affected community are embedded in the work to implement the May 2024 IBI recommendations. The group will choose a stakeholder co-chair from the membership at its next meeting.

Initial discussions have focused on Monitoring Liver Damage for People Infected with Hepatitis C through blood transfusion or blood products (IBI Recommendation 6) and feedback will be shared with the Independent Assurance Sub-Group, which provides assurance to senior Department of Health officials on the implementation of recommendations from the Infected Blood Inquiry.

If you would like to be part of this new Independent Infected Blood Liaison Group, or would like further information, please email: [ibit@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ibit@health-ni.gov.uk).

## For further information

If you require a hard copy or any further information referred to in the weblinks in this newsletter, please contact the NI Scheme Manager.

# A reminder on a few important things

## Tax and benefits

If you live in the UK, income tax is **not** deducted from Scheme payments. However, interest received on investment of any money from the Scheme or interim compensation from UKG will be taxable in the normal way and should be declared in tax returns and self-assessments.

When claiming any of the following means-tested benefits, you must declare to the Department for Communities (DfC) any payments you receive from the NI Scheme or interim compensation from the UKG.

<i>Income Support</i>	<i>Housing Benefit</i>
<i>Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)</i>	<i>Employment &amp; Support Allowance (ESA)</i>
<i>State Pension Credit</i>	<i>Universal Credit</i>

*The NI Scheme can provide a letter to confirm that payments should be disregarded. If you have any problems, let us know.*

## Money advice

The NI Scheme does not provide financial advice, however the NI Direct Finance Support Service supports people who live in Northern Ireland and need short-term financial help.



*For advice about how you can save money on your energy bills, insurance and other costs, please contact the NI Direct Finance Support Service.*



## Contacts

<b>Infected Blood Payment Scheme</b>	<b>IBPS NI</b> Business Services Organisation, Finance Directorate 2nd floor, 2 Franklin Street BELFAST BT2 8DQ	Phone: <a href="tel:02895363817">028 9536 3817</a> Email: <a href="mailto:bsso.ibss@hscni.net">bsso.ibss@hscni.net</a>
<b>Infected Blood Compensation Authority</b>	<b>IBCA</b>	Phone: <a href="tel:01417262397">0141 726 2397</a> (9am - 5pm) Online: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/infected-blood-compensation-authority">www.gov.uk/government/organisations/infected-blood-compensation-authority</a>
<b>NI Health Minister</b>	<b>DoH Private Office</b> Room C5.10 Castle Buildings Stormont Estate Belfast BT4 3SQ	Phone: <a href="tel:02890520643">028 9052 0643</a> Email: <a href="mailto:private.office@health-ni.gov.uk">private.office@health-ni.gov.uk</a>
<b>DoH NI Permanent Secretary</b>	<b>Permanent Secretary</b> C5.11 Castle Buildings Stormont Estate Belfast BT4 3SQ	Phone: <a href="tel:02890520559">028 9052 0559</a> Email: <a href="mailto:permanent.secretary@health-ni.gov.uk">permanent.secretary@health-ni.gov.uk</a>
<b>Stakeholder Group / general policy queries</b>	<b>Infected Blood Inquiry Team</b> Department of Health NI C4.8 Castle Buildings Stormont Estate BELFAST BT4 3SQ	Phone: <a href="tel:02890520764">028 9052 0764</a> Email: <a href="mailto:ibit@health-ni.gov.uk">ibit@health-ni.gov.uk</a>
<b>Psychological Support</b>	<b>Clinical Health Psychology Department</b> Level 9A, Outpatients Centre, Royal Victoria Hospital BELFAST BT12 6BA	Phone: <a href="tel:02896155867">028 9615 5867</a>
<b>Money Advice</b>	<b>NI Direct</b>	Phone: <a href="tel:08005872750">0800 587 2750</a> Online: <a href="http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/finance-support">www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/finance-support</a>
<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Department for Communities</b> Causeway Exchange 1-7 Bedford Street BELFAST BT2 7EG	Phone: 028 9082 9000 Online: <a href="http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk">www.communities-ni.gov.uk</a>  You should contact the office that pays your benefit within DfC:  Universal Credit:

[www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/universal-credit-service-centre](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/universal-credit-service-centre)

Pension Credit:

[www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/northern-ireland-pension-centre](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/northern-ireland-pension-centre)

Income Support:

[www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/income-support](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/income-support)

If you receive **only Housing Benefit:**

Phone NI Housing Executive:

**[0344 892 0902](tel:03448920902)** (8.30am to 5.00pm)