Infected Blood Payment Scheme (NI) Newsletter

Issue 9 – November 2026

Welcome

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Infected Blood Payment Scheme (NI) newsletter. This edition provides an update on the closure of the NI Scheme and the latest developments on the transfer of the Infected Blood Payment Scheme NI (NI Scheme) to the UK-wide Infected Blood Compensation Scheme, administered by the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA).

IBSS Transition to IBCA

As set out in Issue 8 of this newsletter (April 2026) the NI Scheme, along with the infected blood support schemes (IBSS) in England, Scotland and Wales, are closing. The transfer dates for each of the IBSS to IBCA are set out in the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2025[1], as follows:

- **Wales** – 15th January 2027.
- **Northern Ireland and Scotland** – 1st February 2027.
- **England** – 23rd March 2027.

[1] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2025/404/regulation/59

Infected Blood Compensation Authority (IBCA)

An IBSS-IBCA Transition Working Group has been meeting monthly since January 2026, with representatives from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in England, policy leads from the devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the UKG Cabinet Office and IBCA, to monitor progress to ensure IBCA's systems are in place and ready for the transfer in early 2027.

Following confirmation of IBCA's operational readiness, the Department of Health NI Permanent Secretary wrote to formally instruct the Regional Business Services Organisation (RBSO) to proceed with the transfer of the NI Scheme from 1st February 2027.

Infected Blood Support Scheme Payments

The NI Scheme will process all of your **final** monthly / quarterly payments on **Friday 15th January 2027** and IBCA will assume responsibility from February 2027.

From 1st February 2027, IBCA will be responsible for paying the regular support payments you currently receive from the NI Scheme, **if you have chosen this option**. These payments will no longer appear in your bank account under the reference "BSO". IBCA will provide confirmation of your new payment reference in due course.

The managers of the four UK IBSSs 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.

Payment dates

Your remaining payment dates for 2026/27 are as follows:

Friday 11th December **Friday 15th January**

Contacting IBCA

The transfer of the NI Scheme on 1st February 2027 will see the final closure of the NI Scheme. Staff at the Business Services Organisation (BSO) who currently administer the Northern Ireland Scheme **will not** transfer to IBCA.

From 1st February 2027, you should not contact the BSO about infected blood support payments or compensation. **All enquiries should be directed to IBCA**, who will be responsible for regular support payments and infected blood compensation. If you have questions for IBCA, please visit the IBCA website or you can telephone on: **0141 726 2397**.

Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Regulations

The fourth set of Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Regulations came into force on 24th July 2026. These regulations amended the December 2025 regulations and introduced further changes to the operation and administration of the infected blood compensation scheme.

These changes were informed by a 12-week consultation with the Infected Blood Community on proposals arising from recommendations in the *Infected Blood Inquiry Additional Report*. The consultation considered several key areas for change including:

- a new infection severity level for people infected with hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C who also received interferon treatment;
- an updated calculation of financial loss and past care awards for support scheme recipients;
- extra payment for people infected as children;
- changes to the unethical research award to cover more infected people and increased unethical research award amounts;
- a new severe health condition category for chronic hepatitis-associated conditions;
- a new financial loss award for those who would have most likely entered higher-earning employment, and;
- increased injury awards for children and siblings affected under 18, bereaved partners, and parents whose child was infected and died under 18.

For more information, please visit the UK Government website: www.gov.uk/government/publications/ibca-community-update-8-october-2026/ibca-community-update-8-october-2026-html

Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Latest

As of 8th October 2026, IBCA had invited over 7,000 beneficiaries from across the UK to begin their compensation claims.

To date, almost 4,000 people have accepted their compensation offer, with more than £2.4 billion having been paid out so far in compensation.

IBCA has invited the majority of infected beneficiaries registered with an IBSS to begin their compensation claims and continues to scale up its service to make payments to living infected people who have never received financial support through an IBSS. IBCA is also beginning to make

payments to those representing a deceased infected person and to other affected groups.

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, IBCA has received over 20,000 registrations 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.

IBCA Community drop in event

IBCA is hosting a community drop-in event in Derry / Londonderry (venue to be confirmed) on Thursday, 28th January 2027.

This informal event will take place in the afternoon (12 noon – 3pm) and will be an opportunity to meet IBCA staff face to face and to talk about the UK-wide compensation service.

For the latest updates please visit 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:	YouTube:	X:
www.ibca.org.uk	www.youtube.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/.

Interim compensation payments to estates

The application process for the Infected Blood Estates Interim Payment Scheme closed on **30th October 2026**, with a final payment date of 11th December 2026 in Northern Ireland.

Applications for discretionary payments also closed on 30th October 2026, to allow the NI Scheme time to process applications before winding down and transferring to IBCA.

Please note that any discretionary grants issued to you from 1st April 2025 onwards are deducted from your final compensation amount awarded by IBCA.

Consultation on NI Memorial for Infected Blood

On 27th October 2026, the Department of Health launched a targeted consultation on the creation of a permanent Northern Ireland memorial for everyone impacted by the Infected Blood scandal.

You can read more about the consultation on the Department of Health's website at: Consultation on NI Memorial for Infected Blood | Department of Health

The consultation provides an opportunity for those affected in Northern Ireland to share their views on the memorial's location and design.

This is in response to Recommendation 2 of the Infected Blood Inquiry's Final Report, which you can view on the Inquiry website: www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/reports/inquiry-report

The consultation closes on Friday, 27th November 2026. The Department is encouraging as many members of the infected blood community as possible to participate and submit their views.

For further information or additional copies of the consultation, contact ibit@health-ni.gov.uk or telephone 028 9052 0541.

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 on the telephone number at the end of this newsletter.

A reminder on a few important things

Tax and benefits

If you live in the UK, income tax is **not** deducted from NI 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.

Income Support	***Housing Benefit***
Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)	***Employment & Support Allowance (ESA)***
State Pension Credit	***Universal Credit***

The NI Scheme can provide a letter to confirm that payments should be disregarded for benefit assessment purposes. 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

Infected Blood Compensation Authority	**IBCA** PO Box 384 Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1XY	Phone: **0141 726 2397** (9am - 5pm) Online: **https://ibca.org.uk/contact/** Email: **ibcaenquiries@ibca.org.uk**
Infected Blood Payment Scheme NI	**IBPS NI** Business Services Organisation, Finance Directorate 2nd floor, 2 Franklin Street BELFAST BT2 8DQ	Phone: **028 9536 3817** Email: **bso.ibss@hscni.net**
NI Health Minister	**DoH Private Office** Room C5.10 Castle Buildings Stormont Estate Belfast BT4 3SQ	Phone: **028 9052 0643** Email: **private.office@health-ni.gov.uk**
DoH NI Permanent Secretary	**Permanent Secretary** C5.11 Castle Buildings Stormont Estate Belfast BT4 3SQ	Phone: **028 9052 0559** Email: **permanent.secretary@health-ni.gov.uk**
Infected Blood Liaison Group	**Healthcare Inquiries Oversight Directorate** Department of Health Annexe 1, Castle Buildings Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SQ	Phone: **02890 520541** Email: **ibit@health-ni.gov.uk**
Psychological Support	**Clinical Health Psychology Department** Level 9A, Outpatients Centre, Royal Victoria Hospital BELFAST BT12 6BA	Phone: **028 9615 5867**
Money Advice	**NI Direct**	Phone: **0800 587 2750** Online: **www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/finance-support**
Benefits	**Department for Communities** Causeway Exchange	Phone: **028 9082 9000** Online: **www.communities-ni.gov.uk**

	1-7 Bedford Street BELFAST BT2 7EG	You should contact the office that pays your benefit within DfC: Universal Credit: www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/universal-credit-service-centre Pension Credit: www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/northern-ireland-pension-centre Income Support: www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/income-support If you receive **only Housing Benefit**: Phone NI Housing Executive: **0344 892 0902** (8.30am to 5.00pm)