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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dear Neil

The Wales Infected Blood Support Scheme (“WIBSS”)

The Wales Infected Blood Support Scheme (Amendment) Directions 2025 were made on 27 March 2025 to amend the Wales Infected Blood Support Scheme (No. 2) Directions 2017 (“**the Amended 2017 Directions**”) by providing for the uplift of certain annual support payments from 1 April 2025 in line with the Consumer Price Index.

You will recall that the Amended 2017 Directions were also accompanied by a letter dated 27 March 2025 (“**the March Directions Letter**”). That contained directions as to how the Amended 2017 Directions should be read on account of the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme Regulations 2025 (“**the UKG Regulations**”) providing that responsibility for certain payments from the WIBSS would be transferred to the Infected Blood Compensation Authority (“**IBCA**”) from 15 January 2026.

Since then, you will be aware that as part of the response to the recommendations made in the Infected Blood Inquiry’s Additional Report on Compensation published on 9 July 2025, it has been agreed that Infected Blood Support Schemes will remain open for a further calendar year. This means that the WIBSS is to remain open in some cases and continue to make relevant payments until 15 January 2027 (“**the New Transfer Date**”), which is the new date from which the IBCA are expected to acquire the responsibility for making support payments (where relevant) as part of the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme.

On that basis, the March Directions Letter is to be disregarded and instead, the Amended 2017 Directions and all associated documents for the WIBSS must be read in a manner which is consistent with the positions set out in this letter, which are to be regarded as directions to Velindre University NHS Trust (“**Velindre**”) made pursuant to section 19 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006.

We have been assured by UK Government officials that they are urgently arranging for amendments to be made to the UKG Regulations to reflect revised positions (such as the New Transfer Date), as required. As such, references to the UKG Regulations in the remainder of this letter are to such regulations in their form



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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

amended from time to time. In the event of any further change in circumstances (for example, where the UKG Regulations are amended in a way which means that we need to revise the positions stated below) then we will notify you of that in writing.

1. **Qualifying Persons:** As stated in the March Directions Letter, with effect from 1 April 2025 any person who (1) is not registered with the WIBSS; (2) has not already been receiving regular support payments from the WIBSS; and (3) in relation to whom an application for such payments was not made before 1 April 2025 and approved by Velindre, shall not be eligible to register with the WIBSS or receive any payments from the WIBSS. This means that with effect from 1 April 2025, and as was the case in the March Directions Letter, the WIBSS must not accept any new applications to join the WIBSS. An exception to this arises following the death of an infected person, where that person was registered with the WIBSS before 1 April 2025. Please see point 3 below.
2. **Payment Categories:** The annual support payments from the WIBSS to living infected persons registered with the WIBSS must be based on the relevant WIBSS payment category that applied in relation to that person on 31 March 2025. They are not able to move to a different WIBSS payment category after 31 March 2025 as the IBCA will in certain circumstances make reference to the category that applied to the person on that date. The UKG Regulations and associated guidance includes further detail on this, including the circumstances which would apply in the event of a change in the health condition of an eligible infected person.
3. **Death of registered infected person:** With effect from 22 October 2025, where (1) an infected person registered with the WIBSS dies after 31 March 2025; and (2) before the date of their death, that person did not accept compensation from the IBCA under the UKG Regulations ("**the Deceased Person**"), then their surviving spouse or partner (such terms for the purposes of this letter having the definitions used in the Amended 2017 Directions), if any, shall be able to apply to the WIBSS until 30 October 2026 for the following:
 - a. The payments listed at Paragraph 5(2) of the Amended 2017 Directions, based on the WIBSS support scheme category the Deceased Person was in on 31 March 2025. This means that subject to what is contained in the UKG Regulations, and what they agree with the IBCA pursuant to the UKG Regulations, the surviving spouse or partner of the Deceased Person will be eligible to receive annual support scheme payments (100% for one year from the date of death, and 75% thereafter) based on the WIBSS support scheme category the Deceased Person was in on 31 March 2025.
 - b. A one-off discretionary payment of up to £4,500, towards the cost of holding a funeral for the Deceased Person ("**the Funeral Grant Payment**"). To confirm:

- i. In the event of the Deceased Person having no surviving spouse or partner, the Funeral Grant payment may be made to the estate of the Deceased Person.
- ii. WIBSS must notify the recipient of Funeral Grant Payment that it will be deductible from any compensation due from the IBCA under the UKG Regulations.
- iii. The Bereavement Payment of £10,000 (as defined in the Amended 2017 Directions) will not be payable in any circumstances.

Further, in the event of a deceased infected person registered with the WIBSS having no surviving spouse or partner but having dependent children (as defined by the Amended 2017 Directions), such dependent children are not eligible to apply to the WIBSS for any payments. In all cases, paragraph 6 of the Amended 2017 Directions is to be regarded as having been revoked.

In circumstances where an existing bereaved spouse or partner's second infected partner dies (and so they become twice bereaved) they will not be able to move payment categories after 31 March 2025, to whichever partner was receiving the higher support scheme payment amount as of 31 March 2025. In practice this means that whichever category the bereaved person registered with the WIBSS was attributed to when their first infected spouse or partner (who was registered with the WIBSS) died before 31 March 2025, that is the category the bereaved person will remain within regardless of the payment category which applied upon the death of their second infected partner after 31 March 2025 (i.e. if the first partner was in a higher category for payment purposes the bereaved partner will not be able to move to that category).

4. **Acceptance of Compensation from the IBCA:** If before the New Transfer Date, the WIBSS is notified that a person who is registered with the WIBSS has accepted an offer of compensation from the IBCA under the UKG Regulations and which has been calculated on the basis that the IBCA will not be making continued support payments in relation to that person for the period after the New Transfer Date (“**a Final Offer**”), then the WIBSS must not make any support payments to that person after the date they have accepted a Final Offer in accordance with the UKG Regulations (or any other date which is required by the UKG Regulations or the IBCA).
5. **Winter Fuel Payments:** Winter fuel payments are to be paid as usual to recipients who have not accepted core compensation from the IBCA under the UKG Regulations.
6. **Discretionary Payments:** Discretionary payments from the WIBSS to infected persons (or their surviving spouse or partner, where relevant) can

continue to be made by the WIBSS until (1) the New Transfer Date; or if earlier (2) the date the relevant person agrees their compensation from the IBCA. However, this is subject to the following:

- a. Applications for such payments must be received by the WIBSS no later than 30 October 2026.
- b. Any such payments made by the WIBSS to that person for any period after 31 March 2025 must be deductible from any compensation payable to that person from the IBCA.

7. Child Payments: WIBSS should cease making child support payments to any person registered with the WIBSS when that person agrees their compensation with IBCA. This is to apply regardless of the route upon which that person agrees their compensation with IBCA (i.e. regardless of whether they will continue to receive ongoing support payments from IBCA after the New Transfer Date).

8. Payments from the WIBSS for the financial year beginning 1 April 2026: Any payments in the Amended 2017 Directions which are not lump sum payments and are payable (subject to the provisions of the UKG Regulations and this letter) for the financial year beginning 1 April 2026, must be regarded as being payable by the WIBSS on a pro-rated basis for part of the financial year beginning 1 April 2026 and ending on the earlier of (1) the date the person agrees their compensation from the IBCA in accordance with the UKG Regulations; and (2) 19 January 2027. It follows that where support payments are paid to beneficiaries monthly in advance, the last payment run from the WIBSS should be December 2026 at the latest.

Payments which are referred to in the Amended 2017 Directions as one-off lump sum payments and which, subject to the provisions of the UKG Regulations and this letter, are payable by the WIBSS for the financial year commencing 1 April 2026 to persons who are registered with the WIBSS who have not yet agreed their compensation under the UKG Regulations, shall not be regarded as being payable on a pro-rated basis.

9. End Date for All Payments: For the avoidance of doubt and notwithstanding anything contained in the Amended 2017 Directions, this letter or any other document, no sums are to be regarded as being payable by the WIBSS to any person after the New Transfer Date.

10. Appeals:

- c. If (1) a person applied to be registered with the WIBSS as an infected person before 1 April 2025; (2) their application was subsequently refused by Velindre; and (3) that person has since appealed, any such

appeals must be closed/completed by the WIBSS by 31 December 2025.

- d. If (1) a person has applied or applies to be registered with the WIBSS before 30 October 2026 as a surviving spouse or partner of a deceased infected person registered with the WIBSS; (2) their application subsequently has been or is refused by Velindre; and (3) that person has or will since appeal, any such appeals must be closed/completed by the WIBSS by 30 November 2026.

I hope the above is helpful but please let me know if you have any queries. Please also let me know if you wish the current MoU (2021) to be amended to reflect these changes or if the Amended 2017 Directions in conjunction with this letter does not provide you with sufficient information to inform your working practices moving forwards.

It is understood that the WIBSS will be writing to beneficiaries to inform them of changes to the administration of the WIBSS as appropriate. Please also ensure that the WIBSS website is updated with the correct and most up to date positions.

I will be arranging for a copy of this letter to be published on the Welsh Government website, and I will provide you with a weblink to the same in due course.

Thank you for your continued helpful engagement in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Ben Brown

Deputy Director, Quality, Safety and Clinical Conditions

Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr, Ansawdd, Diogelwch a Chyflyrau Clinigol

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Cyfarwyddiaeth Ansawdd a Nyrsio, Grŵp Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a'r Blynyddoedd Cynnar

