

Message

From: Towers Robert DWP FE&D STRATEGY AND POLICY [ROBERT.TOWERS@**GRO-C**]
Sent: 27/09/2017 09:24:59
To: RICHARDS, Sally (NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND) [/o=MAIL/ou=NHSFB14/cn=Recipients/cn=VSFSCR1H]
Subject: RE: SIBSS

Hi Sally

Many thanks for this.

Are you able to amend the guidance as claimants are required to declare the payments. They are still fully disregarded.

Declaring the payment at the outset avoids the potential problem where we identify undeclared capital and we can't establish its source. If this happens the claimant could be asked to attend an interview under caution on suspicion on benefit fraud. I think the last para in your guidance refers to these situations "what to do if DWP queries your income from the scheme".

The reference to being in the UK in the introduction should also be taken out, as there are some circumstances where the disregard could apply if the person was abroad

I've included some words that we have agreed for the English scheme. Is this something you would consider using. Or something along these lines.

Any payments you receive from the [name of scheme] will not be taken into account when calculating entitlement to any income related (or you may wish to use, means-tested) benefits* from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and you tell DWP about the payment. If you claim any income related (or means-tested, if you prefer to say that) benefits (or if someone else claims an income related / means tested benefit that takes into account any money you have) you should tell the office that pays your benefit that you have had a payment from [name of scheme]. They will be able to ignore this payment when working out entitlement to benefit. If you do not tell DWP about this money, they will not be able to determine what money they should ignore and any benefits that depend on the amount of money you have could be affected.

*Income related / Means tested benefits include Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, State Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Employment Support Allowance, Universal Credit

I hope this is helpful. Happy to discuss

Best wishes

Bobby

Bobby Towers Fraud, Error and Debt, Strategy and Policy Team | Counter Fraud and Compliance Directorate | Department for Work and Pensions | 5th Floor, Caxton House | Tothill Street | London | SW1H 9NA | or M1101 Durham House | Washington | Tyne and Wear | NE38 7SF **GRO-C** | www.dwp.gov.uk | Please consider the environment before printing

From: RICHARDS, Sally (NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND) [mailto:sallyrichards2@GRO-C]
Sent: 30 August 2017 16:39
To: Towers Robert DWP FE&D STRATEGY AND POLICY
Subject: RE: SIBSS

Hi Bobby

See below for the information we currently send out – I am happy to include a paragraph on the need to make a declaration if you would like to send me the details. And I can update the guidance.

Any payments you receive from the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme do not need to be taken into account when calculating your income tax bill, or any entitlement to means-tested benefits from the Department for Work and Pensions, as long as you live in the United Kingdom. Further details are available on our website at <https://nhsnss.org/SIBSS>

See link for guidance <https://nhsnss.org/media/2102/sibss-guidance-on-tax-and-benefits-exemptions-v11-final.pdf>

Regards
Sally

From: Towers Robert DWP FE&D STRATEGY AND POLICY [GRO-C]
Sent: 30 August 2017 16:30
To: RICHARDS, Sally (NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND)
Subject: SIBSS

Hi Sally

Following on from Sam's note I hope you are able to help. Would it be helpful if I run over the key issues with you.

SIBSS payments are not taken into account when calculating the amount of money a person has for benefit purposes. However the claimant is required to notify DWP of the capital before it can be disregarded.

The worst case scenario is that a person has a SIBSS payment that we don't know about. Further along the line we run a data capital match and identify undeclared capital in a persons account. The claimant could be asked to attend an interview under caution on suspicion of benefit fraud. That's the thing we really want to avoid from happening.

I was hoping you may be able to include a paragraph in your award notification letters or wherever else you think may be appropriate to advise claimants in receipt of income related benefits that they need to declare the SIBSS payments. If this is something you are able to do I'm happy to work with you on suggested text

Look forward to hearing from you
Bobby

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From: Sam.Baker@GRO-C [<mailto:Sam.Baker@GRO-C>] **GRO-C**
Sent: 30 August 2017 16:16
To: Towers Robert DWP FE&D STRATEGY AND POLICY
Cc: Robert.Girvan@GRO-C **GRO-C** sallyrichards2@GRO-C nss.sibss@nhs.net
Subject: RE: SIBSS

Hi Bobby

As discussed, it's probably best to get in touch with Sally Richards about this as she is the scheme manager. Her email address is above or her phone number is **GRO-C**

Sally and her colleagues have been working on a newsletter for scheme beneficiaries so it may be possible to include something in that or, as you suggest, to include in letters awarding grants a paragraph to let people know that if they are claiming means-tested benefits they should let DWP know about their SIBSS payment(s) to avoid being questioned about the money later on by DWP.

Regards

Sam

Samantha Baker
Organ Donation and Blood Policy
Scottish Government
3E, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
Tel: **GRO-C**

From: Towers Robert DWP FE&D STRATEGY AND POLICY **GRO-C**
Sent: 30 August 2017 16:08
To: Baker S (Sam)
Cc: Girvan RF (Robert)
Subject: SIBSS

Hi Sam, Robert

As discussed, my contact details below. If you are able to put me in touch with the administrator that would be great, so we can work through best ways for notifying claimants of their obligation to notify DWP about the payments
Many thanks
Bobby

From: Sam.Baker@GRO-C [<mailto:Sam.Baker@GRO-C>] **GRO-C**
Sent: 08 February 2017 10:34
To: Towers Robert DWP FE&D STRATEGY AND POLICY
Cc: Robert.Girvan@GRO-C **GRO-C**

Bobby Towers Fraud, Error and Debt, Strategy and Policy Team | Counter Fraud and Compliance Directorate | Department for Work and Pensions | 5th Floor, Caxton House | Tothill Street | London | SW1H 9NA | or M1101 Durham House | Washington | Tyne and Wear | NE38 7SF **GRO-C**
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