

Chief Executive
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Tel: 028 9536 3863
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

9th June 2023

BY EMAIL

Our Ref: FOI 1970

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request for information was received on 16th May 2023 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to the Northern Ireland Infected Blood Support Scheme.

Please find this information enclosed.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the BSO, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.



You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Bailey".

Karen Bailey
Chief Executive

Enc

Question	Response												
1. How many applications from new applicants (people who had not applied to any fund previously) were received in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022?	2018-0 applications 2019-0 applications 2020-0 applications 2021-1 application 2022-1 application												
2. How many applications were received from people (A) diagnosed with hepatitis C between January 2015 and December 2019 (B) diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2020 (C) diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2021 (D) diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2022 (E) diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2023?	A. The Northern Ireland Scheme became operational in November 2017 so therefore does not hold an application record of those diagnosed with hepatitis C between January 2015 and October 2017. From November 2017 to December 2019 0 applications were received. B. 0 applications received in 2020 C. 1 application received in 2021 D. 1 application received in 2022 E. 0 applications received in 2023												
Questions relating to <i>all</i> applications ever received by the NI Support Scheme:													
3. Please provide a breakdown of how many applications have been received by ethnicity, from applicants diagnosed with either hepatitis C or HIV. What proportion of applications have been approved for each group?	The Northern Ireland Scheme does not collect information on the ethnicity status of applicants.												
4. Please provide a breakdown of how many applications have been received by gender, from applicants diagnosed with either hepatitis C or HIV. What proportion of applications have been approved for each group?	<table><tr><td><u>Hepatitis C applicants</u></td><td><u>Male</u></td><td><u>Female</u></td></tr><tr><td>75</td><td>52</td><td>23</td></tr></table> 63 (84%) of these applications have been approved from applicants diagnosed with hepatitis C. <table><tr><td><u>HIV applicants</u></td><td><u>Male</u></td><td><u>Female</u></td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr></table> 1 (100%) application has been approved from applicants diagnosed with HIV.	<u>Hepatitis C applicants</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	75	52	23	<u>HIV applicants</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	1	1	0
<u>Hepatitis C applicants</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>											
75	52	23											
<u>HIV applicants</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>											
1	1	0											

5. Please provide a breakdown of how many applications have been received by disability, from applicants diagnosed with either hepatitis C or HIV. What proportion of applications have been approved for each group?	The Northern Ireland Scheme does not collect information on the disability status of applicants.																											
6. Please provide a breakdown of how many applications have been received by age / age group, from applicants diagnosed with either hepatitis C or HIV. What proportion of applications have been approved for each group?	<u>Hepatitis C</u> 75 applications received <table><tr><th>Age Group</th><th>Applications Received</th><th>Applications Approved</th></tr><tr><td>40-49</td><td>22</td><td>16 (73%)</td></tr><tr><td>50-59</td><td>16</td><td>15 (9%)</td></tr><tr><td>60-69</td><td>20</td><td>18 (90%)</td></tr><tr><td>70-79</td><td>11</td><td>10 (91%)</td></tr><tr><td>80-89</td><td>6</td><td>4 (67%)</td></tr><tr><td>Total Applications</td><td>75</td><td>63 (84%)</td></tr></table> <u>HIV</u> 1 application received <table><tr><th>Age Group</th><th>Applications Received</th><th>Applications Approved</th></tr><tr><td>50-59</td><td>1</td><td>1 (100%)</td></tr></table>	Age Group	Applications Received	Applications Approved	40-49	22	16 (73%)	50-59	16	15 (9%)	60-69	20	18 (90%)	70-79	11	10 (91%)	80-89	6	4 (67%)	Total Applications	75	63 (84%)	Age Group	Applications Received	Applications Approved	50-59	1	1 (100%)
Age Group	Applications Received	Applications Approved																										
40-49	22	16 (73%)																										
50-59	16	15 (9%)																										
60-69	20	18 (90%)																										
70-79	11	10 (91%)																										
80-89	6	4 (67%)																										
Total Applications	75	63 (84%)																										
Age Group	Applications Received	Applications Approved																										
50-59	1	1 (100%)																										
7. Please provide a breakdown of how many applications have been received by HCV Genotype. What proportion of applications have been approved for each group?	The Northern Ireland Scheme does not hold this information.																											
8. Please provide a breakdown of how many applications have been received from people who cleared HCV without treatment. What proportion of applications have been approved for this group? What was the reason for any approvals (if any have been approved)?	The Northern Ireland Scheme has received 0 applications from people who cleared HCV without treatment. The Scheme is open for chronic or advanced applicants only.																											

9. How many Skipton Fund beneficiaries' records were held by Russell Cooke Solicitors for purposes related to the four UK blood Support Schemes?	The Northern Ireland Scheme does not hold this information. This is a matter for Russell Cooke Solicitors
10. How many of the beneficiaries records held by Russell Cooke Solicitors were automatically transferred to one of the four UK Blood Support Schemes?	No beneficiary records have been automatically transferred to the Northern Ireland Scheme from Russell Cooke Solicitors.
11. How many beneficiaries records were not automatically transferred to one of the four UK Blood Support Schemes and now remain in the possession of Russell Cooke Solicitors?	The Northern Ireland Scheme does not hold this information. This is a matter for Russell Cooke Solicitors.
12. For what reason/s were any beneficiaries records not transferred automatically from the Skipton Fund to one of the four UK Blood Support Schemes?	No records were automatically transferred to the Northern Ireland Infected Blood Payment Scheme. Data transfer was subject to beneficiaries completion of a Skipton Fund data consent forms authorising the transfer of their data. If this was not completed this would be a reason for the transfer not occurring.
13. What records are held on the number of rejected applications made to the Skipton Fund, before the creation of the four UK Blood Support Schemes, and are these also held by Russell Cooke Solicitors, and if not, where are they held?	The BSO as Administrator for the Northern Ireland Scheme does not hold this information. This is a matter for Russell Cooke Solicitors.