

What is the Infection Control Fund?

The Infection Control Fund (ICF) is an initiative set up by the Government to help deal with the spread of COVID-19 in care homes.

Government funding for social care

The Government has pledged £600 million to help minimise the risk of COVID-19 across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The funding will be managed by the relevant local authorities to each care home and will be ring-fenced for social care. It is intended that the money received by a care home from the scheme will be utilised to help minimise the spread of COVID-19 in their workplace. This can include giving access to purchasing NHS PPE training and PPE or paying employees who need to self-isolate or quarantine, thereby reducing the risk of them attending work due to financial distress.

How it works

At this time, full details of the scheme are yet to be released but it has been stated that local authorities will manage the process of transferring funds from the scheme to individual care homes. The Government and local authorities are in the process of writing to all care homes regarding their entitlement under the scheme. If a care home has not heard from their local authority yet, it is recommended that they contact them as soon as possible to discuss drawing down monies from the fund.

What happens next?

The local authorities will complete a calculation to allocate the sum to be given to each care home; the resulting sum will be paid across two instalments. The current guidance states that the receipt of the second instalment is dependent upon the first instalment being used to fight the spread of the infection.

The Government expects that employers in receipt of the money from the ICF will ensure that employees and agency workers are restricted to working in one location only to avoid transferring the virus between workplaces. The funding can be used to help

achieve this goal. At this time, there is no definitive list of what the funding can be used for, or what it cannot be used for. The current guidance states that the funds must be used to assist the employer in minimising the risk of the virus spreading to employees and, in turn, service users.

More information

The Government's latest update on the scheme, and other related initiatives, can be accessed [here](#).



Written by:

Laura Moore, Solicitor at rradar

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