

NSUN Participation Payments Policy

Last updated: January 2024

At NSUN, we believe that people should be paid for their time if they are participating in research with us, creating content as a member, or taking part in an NSUN event as a speaker or panellist. We also acknowledge that these payments are a token of our appreciation but do not fully cover the experience, expertise, and wisdom that your work or perspectives bring.

Below are the rates of payment for different types of activities.

Type	Activity	Rate
Participation	Interviews	£75
	Focus Group	£100
Content	Blog	£150
	Vlog	£30-50
	Podcast	£100
	Article	£200
Events	Guest speaker	£100
	Panellist (for events that involve some preparatory work)	£200

Tax/benefits information for recipients

We know that receiving ad-hoc payments or “gifts” like these can impact on your tax and/or benefits. You may already be familiar with this process, and know how to navigate involvement payments, or it may be a new – and daunting – prospect. You are responsible for letting the DWP and/or HMRC know about payments you receive for work, if necessary. If you want to speak to someone about this, you can get in touch with NSUN’s Interim CEO, Jen, at jen.beardsley@nsun.org.uk,

Impact on benefits: if you are in receipt of benefits you may wish to discuss the impact of this gift on any benefits you receive. You can email Jen at the address above for some more information about this. We are also happy to provide a letter of thanks to show Jobcentre Plus, if helpful.

If you are employed or self-employed you should declare this income to HMRC who can confirm whether or not any tax is payable.

More information: The National Institute for Health and Care Research provides some relevant information on the potential impact of public involvement payments on welfare benefits on their ['Payment guidance for researchers and professionals' webpage under point 4.2 and point 6.](#)

Vouchers: if you would prefer a voucher to a bank transfer, please let us know at the point that we ask you for your payment details.

We realise that these processes may be an additional barrier to taking part, so if there is something we can do to help this make sense to you (and find a way of navigating it) let us know.