

## **NSUN Participation Payments Policy**

*External. Last updated: February 2026*

At NSUN, we believe that people should be paid for their time if they are participating in research with us, creating commissioned content as a member, or taking part in an NSUN event as a speaker or panellist. These payments are a token of our appreciation for your experience, expertise, and labour.

Below are our rates of payment for different types of activities. We can provide payment via bank transfer or via online gift vouchers if preferred.

Type	Activity	Payment
Participation/involvement	Interviews	£100
	Focus Group	£100
Content creation	Blog	£150
	Podcast guest	£150
	Article	£200
Events	Guest speaker	£200

### **Access costs**

We also aim to help, wherever feasible, with any costs that may enable members to access an NSUN event or participation activity (for example, if you have caring responsibilities, we may be able to make a contribution towards payment of a carer for the duration of an NSUN event, or help pay for things like temporary internet access for virtual activities, or the provision of a translator). We invite members to get in touch with us at [info@nsun.org.uk](mailto:info@nsun.org.uk) in relation to specific events or activities to discuss how we may be able to help.

### **Out-of-pocket expenses**

For activities such as research involvement via interviews and focus groups, we will provide information about covering any out-of-pocket expenses in addition to making a payment to you for your participation.

### **Tax/benefits information for recipients**

Receiving ad-hoc payments or “gifts” like these can impact your tax and/or benefits as they are counted as earnings, even though they are not a wage and do not imply an employment relationship with NSUN. You are responsible for letting the DWP and/or HMRC know about any earnings you receive.

Accepting payment is entirely optional. You can **refuse payment** if it you do not wish to accept it due to tax/benefits implications, or **ask to receive a lower amount** if your benefit conditions set a limit.

### **Impact on tax**

If you are employed or self-employed you may need to declare any income to HMRC who can confirm whether any tax is payable.

### **Impact on benefits**

If you are in receipt of benefits you are advised to discuss the impact of this gift with a benefits advisor. You can also email us at [info@nsun.org.uk](mailto:info@nsun.org.uk) if you require any information or support around this. We can provide an explanatory letter to show Jobcentre Plus, if needed.

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 members of the public considering involvement in research](#)' webpage.

You can seek expert advice about the implications of payment on benefits from services such as [Citizens Advice](#) or [Advicelocal](#).

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 and/or find a way of navigating it, let us know.