

### **How does the NIHR Clinical Trials Units Support Funding work?**

The NIHR Clinical Trials Units (CTU) Support Funding award is intended for use as 'priming' funds, to support the CTU by increasing ability to offer longer contracts to staff and increase research capacity. The expected result of this investment is an increase in the number of high quality research applications submitted to NIHR programmes and supported projects. It is not core-funding.

The intention is that CTU Support Funding awards will be made on an institutional basis. In Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or NHS Trusts where there is more than one unit it is expected that units will collaborate in a consortium arrangement.

CTU Support Funding payments are offset against the income from successful NIHR programme project grants. The idea is that once the CTU is stabilised by an increase in grant income, the amount of CTU Support Funding will be reduced. All projects that started or had funding agreed since the start of a CTU's Support Funding award will be eligible for offset. On receipt and review of the annual report, a reduction will then be calculated (as appropriate) in the next payments made to the CTU; seeking to reclaim a maximum of 80% of the total CTU Support Funding Award, but never more than equivalent 50% of income earned from each eligible project.

*For example:*

*Unit X receives £200,000 per annum CTU Support Funding (SF) (£100K paid every 6 months).*

*Last year they received **£271,024** in eligible income for work on two HTA trials.*

*We do not want to take more than 50% of the income they have received from each project - 50% of £271,024 is **£135,512**.*

*80% of their £200K SF award is £160K - as £135,512 does not exceed this we would reclaim all of the £135,512.*

*The difference being a permanent contribution to CTU capacity building, retained by the unit.*

*The money to be reclaimed would be split equally over the following two payments - **£67,576 less** each payment.*

*Resulting payments will be **£34,424** in April and **£32,424** in October.*

The maximum offset limit is 80% of the CTU Support Funding awarded; if units achieve in excess of this level offset, the money to be reclaimed would be capped at 80% of what they had been awarded.

*For example:*

*Unit X receives £200,000 per annum CTU Support Funding (£100K paid every 6 months).*

*Last year they received **£458,046** in eligible income for work on one EME & three HTA trials.*

*We do not want to take more than 50% of the income they have received from each project - 50% of £458,046 is **£229,023**.*

*£229,023 is equivalent to 114.5% of their Support Funding award. As this exceeds the 80%, we would reclaim only 80% of their Support Funding award of £200,000, which is **£160,000**.*

*The money to be reclaimed would be split equally over the following two payments - **£80,000 less** each payment.*

*Resulting payments will be **£20,000** in April and **£20,000** in October.*