



**Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

## **Society supports call for Retention and Recruitment Premium Review**

In line with the GB regulator of Pharmacy, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland has expressed its concern at the rejection of the recommendations of Health Pay Review Body's concerning recruitment and retention premiums proposed for Pharmacists, by the Health Ministers.

Speaking on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society NI, Ms Ann Bowen, vice-president said "recruitment and retention of pharmacy staff has been recognised as an ongoing issue within the hospital sector. To maintain the highest levels of service and safety we believe that this issue must be addressed. The Pharmaceutical Society NI supports the call for the Minister for Health to review this decision."

Sheila Maltby, chair of the NI group of GHP (Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists) said "Our members are dismayed at the Government's decision to reject the Pay Review Body's recommendation. This is a severe blow to the morale of all pharmacists in the managed sector who despite working under pressure due to staff shortages and vacancy controls have consistently delivered a high quality service to patients and contributed significantly to financial savings within their Trusts. The ongoing problem of recruitment and retention of pharmacists must be solved otherwise it will create long term problems in sustaining pharmacy services in the managed sector"

Link to GHP website: [www.ghp.org.uk/home](http://www.ghp.org.uk/home)

**Ends**

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## **Notes to Editors**

1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is the regulatory body for pharmacy in Northern Ireland. Its principal objective is the protection of patient safety in the provision of pharmacy services in Northern Ireland.
2. The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists is part of the United Kingdom