

## Chief Executive Encourages Pharmacists to Consider a Role in Complaints Handling

Speaking on the announcement of two new vacancies for pharmacists on the Scrutiny Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, Chief Executive Trevor Patterson said:

“Upholding the reputation of pharmacy is a critical part of the work of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland. Whilst complaints and concerns are not numerous they do require rigorous investigation and consideration particularly where fitness to practise is called into question.

The Scrutiny Committee is an advisory committee to the Registrar which considers cases after they have been investigated and recommends that they be referred to a full conduct hearing or not, based upon the portfolio of evidence provided. We are currently, in the advertisement below, seeking registrant members for this panel.

This is an important function and it provides an opportunity for registered pharmacists to make an additional contribution to both public safety and the reputation of the profession. I

would encourage those of you with the necessary skill set to apply for this role.”

The Scrutiny Committee consists of a Chairman, two Pharmacists and two lay members. Members will be appointed against defined competencies in accordance with legislation and best practice, with the appointments process undertaken by an independent consultant.

These appointments will serve to protect patients and to act in the wider public interest.

## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBER (PHARMACIST) X2

To be an effective member of this Committee all applicants will need to provide evidence of the following **(a) essential competencies**:

- Understanding of, and interest in, the NHS, health professions and pharmacy in Northern Ireland.
- Knowledge and/or experience of representing the interests of the general public.
- Knowledge of healthcare regulatory issues..
- Experience of evaluating evidence and making objective, unbiased, thoughtful decisions.
- Experience of report writing, writing deliberations or case notes.
- Good communication, intellectual and analytical ability.
- Commitment to the Principles of Public Life: - Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

And **(b) desirable competency**:

- Previous committee or judicial work or service on a Tribunal, Board, or Council

Pharmacist positions will require to meet the following **essential criteria** :

- Registered with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
- Considerable current or recent experience of pharmacy practice (3 yrs or more in the last 6).

As a member of a Fitness to Practice Committee you will be expected to uphold the seven Principles of Public Life and you will be accountable through the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland to the general public. In order to be eligible applicants must not be subject to any current Fitness to Practice proceedings.

Nominees will be expected to attend compulsory training and successfully complete a structured induction programme before confirmation of appointment. These positions are remunerated at £156 per day and appointees may be required to attend up to approximately 12 days per annum.

To apply please contact “The Secretariat”, Quoting Reference **FTP Recruitment**, 73 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HL, phone 02890 326 927, for an application pack.

**The closing date for receipt of applications is 3pm on Monday 24th May 2010.** Interviews are scheduled to be held during week commencing 31 May 2010.

Appointees will be considered to be self-employed and therefore not governed by, or entitled to, any standard conditions of employment.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is an Equal Opportunities Employer.