

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Baroness Pitkeathley appointed Chair of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence**

The Appointments Commission today agreed in principle to appoint Baroness Jill Pitkeathley OBE as the Chair of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE). CHRE is the statutory body which oversees the regulation of 1.2 million healthcare professionals.

Baroness Pitkeathley has been a Peer since 1997 and sits on the Labour benches. She became the Chief Executive of the then National Council for Carers (now Carers UK) in 1986, turning the needs of Great Britain's six million carers into a public issue.

Baroness Pitkeathley has great experience of leading public bodies. She was the first Chair of the New Opportunities Fund from 1998 to 2004, and was also the interim Chair of the General Social Care Council for its first six months. In 2003, she became the Chair of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (this appointment ends in December 2008). From 2005 to 2008 she was Chair of the Home Office Advisory Panel on Futurebuilders and in 2008, was appointed as Chair of the Advisory Board for the Office of the Third Sector.

At CHRE, Baroness Pitkeathley will be leading a newly reformed Council consisting of public members, appointed from across the UK. The new Council will assume responsibility for CHRE's strategic direction from January 2009. CHRE's work is centred on the importance of patient safety and public protection in professional health regulation. Since it was set up in 2003, it has monitored the work of the nine health professions regulators, sharing good practice and ensuring that public protection remains at the top of the agenda in professional regulation. It acquired new powers of scrutiny in the Health & Social Care Act 2008.

Harry Cayton, Chief Executive of CHRE said: 'Jill Pitkeathley has great experience of leading independent statutory bodies but most of all she brings an outstanding commitment to the needs of patients and carers. Their well-being is at the heart of healthcare regulation.'

'Health professional regulation faces the challenge of rapid change in clinical practice, professional roles and international mobility of both professionals and patients. We are delighted that Baroness Pitkeathley will be leading our ambitious work both to anticipate and shape future developments in the field.'

**ENDS**

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For further details of CHRE's work please visit: [www.chre.org.uk](http://www.chre.org.uk) .

## Notes to editors

1. The appointment at CHRE will be for four years from January 2009 at a remuneration of £33,190 per annum. It is intended that it will be formalised as soon as the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (Appointment, Procedure etc) Regulations 2008 have been enacted. All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. In accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, all those appointed are required to declare any political activity in the last 5 years and for this declaration to be made public.
2. Baroness Jill Pitkeathley's declared political activities in the last five years:
  - Member of the House of Lords, taking the Labour Whip.
3. Other ministerial appointments held:
  - Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). The appointment at CAFCASS began in 2003 and ends in December 2008, (remuneration: £40,000 pa).
  - Chair of the third Sector Advisory Body at the Cabinet Office (2008-2011, £10,000 pa for 2 days a month).
4. Baroness Pitkeathley is currently:
  - President of Volunteering England;
  - President of Berkshire Community Council;
  - Vice-president of Carers UK and President of Eurocarers;
  - Chair of the Specialised Health Care Alliance.

(The above positions are voluntary)

5. The Council of Healthcare Regulatory Excellence is an independent body accountable to the UK Parliament. It is a UK wide body and works with health ministers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its primary purpose is to promote the health, safety and well-being of patients and other members of the public. It oversees and scrutinises the health professions regulators, works with them to identify and promote good practice in regulation, carries out research, develops policy and gives advice. It was established in 2003 and was reformed in 2008.
6. The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) is the overarching, independent body overseeing the regulatory work of nine regulatory bodies
  - The General Chiropractic Council;
  - The General Dental Council;
  - The General Medical Council;
  - The General Optical Council;
  - The General Osteopathic Council;
  - The Health Professions Council;
  - The Nursing and Midwifery Council;
  - The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland;
  - The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.