

PHARMACY REGULATOR WELCOMES COMMENCEMENT OF SECOND PHASE OF PHARMACY ACT 2007

Sunday, November 30, 2008: The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), the pharmacy regulator, has today welcomed the commencement by the Minister for Health and Children, Ms Mary Harney TD, of the second phase of the Pharmacy Act 2007. The main sections of the Act commenced on Friday deal with the registration of pharmacists and Retail Pharmacy Businesses (pharmacies).

Dr Bernard Leddy, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), the statutory regulator, today welcomed the announcement by the Minister and said the PSI was proceeding to establish the new registration systems introduced.

Dr Ambrose McLoughlin, PSI Registrar and CEO said: "The registration of Retail Pharmacy Businesses in particular marks a new departure for the pharmacy sector in Ireland and will ensure patient safety and public protection through the maintenance of high standards of practice. In addition, the new clinical and professional management and accountability structures, where every pharmacy must have a supervising pharmacist and a superintendent pharmacist, will ensure that patients and the public will receive safe, high quality professional care and service from their pharmacists and pharmacies. The new statutory Code of Conduct for pharmacists, which puts the health, wellbeing, care and safety of the patient as a pharmacist's primary concern, will also ensure that the public can continue to place a high level of trust in the pharmacy profession. We look forward to working with the profession and the public to ensure that the new regulations will promote high standards of practice by the profession and promote the health and safety of the public."

Part 7 of the Act which relates to the new powers of investigation of the PSI was also commenced, as well as a number of statutory rules relating to various functions of the PSI.

Ends

For further information, contact:

Kate O'Flaherty, PSI, 087 9129141

Jackie Gallagher, Q4 Public Relations, 087 2371838

Editor's Note:

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, the Pharmacy Regulator, is the statutory body for pharmacists and pharmacies in Ireland. It acts in the public interest to regulate the profession.