NHS Pension Scheme Review: employee research

During July, 10,000 NHS employees in England and Wales will be receiving a research questionnaire connected to the current review of the NHS pension scheme. The review aims to ensure the scheme meets the needs of a modern NHS and its staff, by making benefits more appropriate for today's workforce.

The research is being carried out by Mercer Human Resource Consulting and is supported by the employer and staff side representatives of the review. It will assist in the development of final proposals expected in the autumn of this year. To ensure the survey is wholly representative, a sample of employers will be selected based on geography, size and organisation type and from these organisations a specific number of employees from all of the main career groups will be randomly selected and surveyed.

Verity Lewis, deputy chair of the staff side said, "It is important and proper to ask for the views of pension scheme members as part of the review process and the NHS trade unions fully support this research project."

David Jordison, review chair encouraged people to complete and return their questionnaires, "This is an extremely valuable part of the review process and I would urge anyone contacted to take part to help shape the future of the pension scheme."

Research results are expected in September 2004.

<div align="center">**ENDS**</div>

1. The NHS Confederation, in partnership with key stakeholders including NHS trade unions, the Department of Health and the NHS Pensions Agency, are leading a review of the NHS pension scheme in England and Wales.

2. The NHS Confederation represents the organisations that make up the NHS. Members include the majority of NHS trusts, primary care trusts and health authorities in England; trusts and local health boards in Wales; trusts and NHS boards in Scotland; and health and social services trusts and boards in Northern Ireland.

3. More information on the review is available on the NHS Confederation website, http://www.nhsconfed.org/ourpriorities/pensions.asp