

30 March, 2006

PRESS RELEASE

**NHS PAY AWARD IS 'A VICTORY FOR PAY INDEPENDENCE',
SAYS AMICUS HEALTH**

The 2.5 per cent rise for NHS staff for 2006/07 was described as 'a victory for the independence' of the Pay Review Body by Amicus which represents 100,000 professionals working in the NHS.

Amicus Head of Health, Gail Cartmail said: 'Whilst this recommendation and pay award does not meet all our members' expectations, nevertheless we welcome the review body's confirmation of its independence.'

'We recognise that the review body was under considerable political pressure from the Chancellor and the Health Secretary to limit any award to 2% and we are pleased that they resisted that unacceptable pressure'.

'We believe that the role of the review body is strengthened by this outcome. We believe that the future pay awards must address the staff recruitment and retention issues for the NHS and this year's pay award goes some way towards that but there remain further opportunities to achieve this.'

Last autumn, Amicus demanded a 'substantial' pay increase for 2006/07 and in its submission to the PRB, highlighted evidence of abuse over the job evaluation process by NHS trusts which claimed they couldn't afford to implement *Agenda for Change* (AfC). Amicus argued that it had been reassured by government that AfC was fully funded.

+ends-

NOTES TO NEWS EDITORS:

For further information, please ring:

Gail Cartmail	 07768 931 305
Barrie Brown, Amicus Lead Officer for Nursing	 07798 531 022
Shaun Noble Communications Officer	 (020) 7780 4080
mobile	 07768 693 940

Amicus/CPHVA press releases can be seen on the CPHVA website: www.amicus-cphva.org

Amicus Health has 100,000 professional and skilled members working in the health sector. Its professional sections include the Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association, the Mental Health Nurses' Association, the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, the Society of Sexual Health Advisers, and the Medical Practitioners' Union.