

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

20 December 2011

Appointment of three Non-Executive Members to the Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority

Health Minister, Edwin Poots today announced the appointment of three Non-Executive Members (one Lay, one Financial and one Legal Member) to the Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA).

The appointments, which were made in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland, are for a four-year term from 19 December 2011.

They are: Mrs Sarah Havlin (Legal Member); Mr Denis Power (Financial Member); and Ms Lindsey Smith (Lay Member).

The main functions of the RQIA are:

- to inspect the quality of services provided by Health and Social Care Services (HSC) bodies in Northern Ireland through reviews of clinical and social care governance arrangements within these bodies;
- to regulate (register and inspect) a wide range of services delivered by HSC bodies and by the independent sector. The regulation of services is based on new minimum care standards to ensure that service users know what quality of services they can expect to receive, and service providers have a benchmark against which to measure their quality;
- to undertake a range of responsibilities for people with a mental illness and those with a learning disability. These include; preventing ill treatment; remedying any deficiency in care or treatment; terminating improper detention in a hospital or guardianship; and preventing or redressing loss or damage to a patient's property.

The board of RQIA comprises of a Non-Executive Chair and twelve Non-Executive Members.

Notes to editors:

1. Appointments:

Mrs Sarah Havlin lives in Bangor. A Solicitor by profession, Mrs Havlin is currently self-employed as a consultant working on a freelance portfolio career which includes several part-time fee paid Judicial positions on tribunals/appeals panels, formal Arbitration and Mediation work and part time lecturing in Law, with Queen's University and the Open University. Prior to this, she was a practising solicitor in the field of Commercial Law. Mrs Havlin currently holds a number of public appointments. She has been appointed by the Department of Enterprise Trade & Investment (DETI) as a Board Member, Chair and Convenor of the Education and Money Affairs Policy Committee of the General Consumer Council for which she receives £101.34 per day. In addition, she is under appointment by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) as Legal Chair of the Independent Appeals Panel and also as Chair of the Agricultural Wages Board for which she receives £259 per day, and by the Department of Education (DENI) as Chair of the Exceptional Circumstances Tribunal for which she receives £359 per day. In 2008 she was an Assistant Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland under appointment by the Department of the Environment (DOE). Mrs Havlin is also a SEELB representative and School Governor to St Columbanus' College and Trinity Nursery School. Mrs Havlin will bring to her role on the board of the RQIA her experience as a legal practitioner having provided legal advice and services to some of

Northern Ireland's largest organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors. She has not engaged in any political activity in the last five years.

Mr Denis Power lives in Lisburn. He is currently employed as a Senior Manager with the First Trust Bank, a Division of AIB Group (UK) plc and has a background in Credit and Operational Risk Management, Quality Assurance and Project Management. Mr Power was awarded a Bachelor of Financial Services degree from University College Dublin (UCD) in 1994, is currently a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers in Ireland and a former Council Member of the Institute of Bankers in Ireland. He previously served as a Non-Executive Director of the former North and West Belfast Health and Social Services (HSS) Trust (2001-2007), serving as Chairman of Audit Committee. He is currently serving as a member of the Audit Committee of Intercomm Ireland. Mr Power is a former Chairman of Upper Springfield Development Trust and Member of Business in the Community and was presented with a Business in the Community (BITC) Prince of Wales Ambassador Award in 2000 for his contribution to Community Regeneration. Mr Power will bring to his role as a Financial Member on the board of the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority, his Senior Management experience to the role with Audit Committee, Financial Management, Controls Assurance, Accounting Standards and Management Oversight knowledge. He holds no other public appointments and has not engaged in any political activity in the last five years.

Ms Lindsey Janet Smith MSc, MCIPD., lives in Belfast. Ms Smith is currently a self-employed Organisational Development Consultant, working with local councils and the public sector providing Leadership and Management Development, Business Improvement Interventions, Change Management and Executive Coaching for senior teams. She is a part time associate lecturer in Change Management and Organisational Behaviour at the University of Ulster. Prior to this, she worked in the Identity and Passport Service, NI, initially as Deputy Regional Manager and then as Head of the Service with responsibility for the delivery of passport and identity services. She was also responsible for managing a multi million pound budget, Corporate Governance, Service Delivery, Partner Management, Strategic Planning and Change. She is currently appointed by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) as a Member of the Board of Governors of the Belfast Metropolitan College, for which she receives travel expenses. Ms Smith will bring to her role on the board of the RQIA her significant experience in corporate governance, change management, service improvement and people development. She has not engaged in any political activity in the last five years.

2. Non-Executive Members of the Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority receive annual remuneration of £5,845.

3. The appointments were made with the approval of the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety. There are no specific qualifications for appointment.

4. All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland requires the political activity of appointees are to be published. All appointees declared that they have not engaged in political activity in the last five years.

5. Media queries about this press release to DHSSPS Information Office on 028 9052 0579, or out of hours contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 076 9971 5440 and your call will be immediately returned.