

News release



23 December 2005

DONATION IN LIEU OF CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Southern Health and Social Services Council, the local health watchdog, made a decision not to send Christmas cards in 2005 but rather to give a donation to the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Mrs Lynne Cairns, Chairman presented Brian Symington, Director of RNID in Northern Ireland, with a cheque for £300.

Mrs Cairns said, "We have much pleasure in presenting the donation which will help to support the range of services provided by RNID".

Ends

Notes to Editors:

- **The Southern Health and Social Services Council is one of 4 Health and Social Services Councils set up in 1991 to represent the views of patients and users of the health and social services. The Council has a total of 24 members, 40% of whom are nominated by District Councils in the Southern Area. The remainder are appointed by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – 30% voluntary/community representatives and 30% are nominees with an interest in health and social care.**
- **Health and Social Services Councils have a right to be consulted by Health and Social Services Boards about and plans for development of services, or where significant changes are being considered. Councils play an important part in representing the views of consumers of services to the decision makers, and provide advice and support to patients and service users in relation to complaints procedures.**

If you require any further information please contact :

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The Council's website address is: www.shsscouncil.net