

## FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

29<sup>th</sup> April 2005

### RISK EQUALISATION COMMENT

As independent regulator of the private health insurance industry, the HIA (The Health Insurance Authority) continues to carry out its statutory duty in relation to the Risk Equalisation Scheme (RES) that came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003.

To date the Authority has recommended that Risk Equalisation Payments should not be made.

The Authority has assessed further recent returns from the insurers in the marketplace and having formulated a proposed recommendation, then afforded the insurers an opportunity to make representations on that draft. Having taken account of all representations received, the Authority has now formulated a final recommendation, and has issued this recommendation to the Tanaiste and Minister for Health & Children, Mary Harney T.D., by the due date of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

Under the RES legislation, the Authority is obliged to notify all insurers of its final recommendation after a further fourteen days have elapsed. The legislation also provides the Minister for Health & Children with an additional sixty days to consider the HIA's final recommendation.

In light of this continuing statutory process, it would be inappropriate for the Authority to make any further comment on the matter at this time.

Ends/

**For Further Information:**

Niall O'Muilleoir  
Financial Dynamics  
087 380 3188

**Editor's Note:**

Further information on the Risk Equalisation Scheme is available at  
<http://www.hia.ie/functions/risk.html>