

***heywood* wins HPSS contract**

ALTRINCHAM – 31 January 2007

heywood, the market leader in the provision of pensions software to the Public Sector, has signed a contract with the Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (NI DHSSPS). The contract, worth more than £4 million over an initial 7 year term further strengthens *heywood's* position in Northern Ireland.

This win brings *heywood's* objective of becoming the number one pensions provider to Central Government closer. *heywood* already demonstrates an impressive track record within Local Government pensions, where its systems are currently used to administer over 90% of Local Government, Police and Fire pension schemes, and it is now actively pursuing further opportunities within Central Government. This contract also expands *heywood's* growing presence in Northern Ireland with NI DHSSPS becoming the third Northern Irish Public Sector pension scheme to be signed by *heywood*.

Phil McCusker from the Department has commented:

"The Department has selected *heywood* after a thorough market review and believes that their products and experience in the Public Sector will deliver the best solution available. *heywood* already supports a significant number of Public Sector clients and the level of experience and expertise demonstrated by their consultants provides the confidence that the *heywood* team and their products will enable the Department to achieve its modernisation objectives and that this will prove to be a productive partnership"

Pat Marchbank, *heywood's* Head of Public Sector, said:

"We are delighted to sign this contract with NI DHSSPS which further strengthens our position in what is a very important market for us. *heywood* is looking forward to working with NI DHSSPS to support its programme for continuous improvement. We are determined to extend *heywood's* market leadership into Central Government and the decision by NI DHSSPS to work with *heywood* reaffirms the strength of our offering for this market."

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Notes to editors

heywood

heywood was established in 1975 and has been part of *aquilaheywood* since 2002. *aquilaheywood*, the Group comprising *aquila* and *heywood*, is the leading supplier of pensions administration software solutions in the UK. The pension schemes for nearly 7 million members in more than 200 major organisations are run using the Group's administration software solutions. These solutions cover the whole range of available schemes including DB, DC, hybrid, career average, cash balance and stakeholder.

The Group provides solutions to the Financial Services, Third Party Administration, Corporate and Public Sector pension scheme markets in the UK, Ireland and the rest of Europe. Its clients include Prudential, Norwich Union, BBC, Asda, BP, Diageo, the European Central Bank, Aon Consulting, JLT, and most local authority schemes.

altair is *heywood's* next generation pensions software solution, which is fully browser-based with advanced web capabilities and takes full advantage of modern technology.

For those clients who wish to out-source their pensions IT function, *altair* can be offered via a fully hosted or ASP service. To ensure a low risk implementation, the Group provides experienced consultancy services for business management comprising project management, process engineering, data migration, management information and system integration.

NI DHSSPS

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety was established by the Departments (NI) Order 1999. The Department administers the business of:

- Health and Personal Social Services, which includes policy and legislation for hospitals, family practitioner services, community health and personal social services;
- Public Health, which covers responsibility for policy and legislation to promote and protect the health and well-being of the population of Northern Ireland; and
- Public Safety, which encompasses responsibility for the policy and legislation for the Fire Authority, food safety and emergency planning.