

## **Chris Hughes awarded OBE**

7 January 2009

### **The Chairman of the HAC has been recognised in the 2009 New Year's Honours list**

Chris Hughes was awarded the OBE for public service. Chris became Chairman of the HAC in 2003 and has devoted himself to a long career of public service. A solicitor, Chris is a member of the board of the Legal Complaints Service and the Department of Work and Pensions Data Ethics Committee. He is a Tribunal Judge chairing Mental Health Review Tribunals. He also chairs tribunals considering allegations of misconduct by members of local authorities and tribunals considering restrictions on nitrate use on agricultural land. He is Chair of the UK Chemicals Stakeholder Forum bringing together the UK Chemical Industry and civil society to promote action on and advise Ministers about hazardous chemicals in the environment. He is a member of the Institute of Biology. He formerly he served as solicitor to the British Medical Association, with the Greater London Council, the Inner London Education Authority and as a member of numerous health/local authorities.

Sandra Verkuyten, HAC Chief Executive, announced on hearing the news:

"I am delighted that Chris's years of dedicated public service are being recognised. On behalf of everyone at the Council, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations".

Commenting on the award, Chris Hughes said:

"I have been privileged to be able to serve in many capacities which have been personally challenging and, I hope, useful to society. I am very grateful to my wife and to all my colleagues who have helped me do this".

-ENDS-

1. The HAC is an independent, statutory regulator set up by the Hearing Aid Council Act (1968, as amended) to register dispensers and their employers working in the private hearing aid sector. It sets the standards of education, training, conduct and performance dispensers must meet to join the register and investigates any alleged breaches of those standards. There are around 1500 hearing aid dispensers on the HAC register.

2. For more information please contact Stuart Holland:

Email [stuart.holland@thehearingaidcouncil.org.uk](mailto:stuart.holland@thehearingaidcouncil.org.uk) Tel 0203 102 4030.