

## **MSD Human Health appoints Liz O'Donnell as Director of Policy, Government Affairs and Communications**

**Dublin 8th, December 2016:** MSD in Ireland has announced the appointment of former TD and Minister of State, Liz O'Donnell, as Director of Policy, Government Affairs and Communications.

Ms. O'Donnell will be responsible for developing and delivering collaborative public affairs strategies and policy initiatives in order to maintain MSD's position as a key stakeholder in Irish healthcare sector, ensuring the delivery of better healthcare outcomes for patients. She joins the leadership team of MSD Human Health from January 2017.

Commenting on the announcement, Ger Brennan, Managing Director of MSD Human Health, said "As healthcare in Ireland continues to evolve, the industry's significant contribution to delivering the latest innovative healthcare solutions to Irish patients, as well as its contribution to the wider economy, will become even more critical. In recent years MSD has engaged proactively with partners across the public policy landscape to encourage an open debate about the future of the Irish healthcare system, with the needs of the patient at its heart - Liz will play a leading role in maintaining and advancing that debate."

Ms. O'Donnell represented South Dublin as TD for 15 years from 1992 to 2007. In 1997 she was appointed Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for Overseas Development Assistance and Human Rights. As Minister of State, she was a key member of the Government's negotiating team in the multi-party talks at Stormont, which culminated in the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

Since retiring from politics in 2007, Ms. O'Donnell has worked as an adviser and public affairs consultant and in print and broadcast media, including as a weekly columnist with the Irish Independent.

Ms. O'Donnell was appointed as Chair of the Road Safety Authority in 2014 and she will continue to serve in this non-executive role.

Recognised as Ireland's Pharma Company and Biopharma Company of the Year in 2015, MSD employs over 1,800 people in Ireland across its extensive Irish operations, encompassing manufacturing, R&D, global shared services and commercial facilities.

MSD has a strong legacy in Ireland that stretches back over the last 50 years, and in that time, the company has invested over \$2.5 billion in expanding and developing its facilities here. The company provides healthcare solutions in areas such as diabetes, heart disease, immunology, oncology, infectious diseases, women's health and anaesthesia.

**ENDS**

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### **About MSD**

MSD, known as Merck in the United States and Canada, has operations in more than 140 countries. In Ireland, MSD employs approximately 1,800 people across its five locations in Dublin, Carlow, Cork,

Tipperary and Wicklow. Its extensive Irish operations encompass manufacturing, commercial and marketing facilities.

MSD is a leader in healthcare, dedicated to helping the world be well through a wide range of innovative health solutions. This includes the development, production and distribution of prescription medicines, vaccines and biologic therapies as well as animal health products.

MSD's commitment to research and to increasing access to healthcare across the world is demonstrated by clearly focused policies, far-reaching programmes and life-enhancing partnerships.