

# PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** 10 January 2005

**Contact:** Ceri Jackson on  
029 2044 9556 / 07946 872935



---

## **Sad to see her go - Jane Hutt**

While Jane Hutt has been Health and Social Services Minister there has been tremendous progress in eye care in Wales. The Welsh Assembly Eyecare initiative launched in 2000 by Jane Hutt has resulted in much improved services including an extension in free eye tests for at risk groups in Wales. The Low Vision scheme, also part of the Eyecare Initiative means that people who need low vision aids can get them from their local optician. Joyce Chatterton, Director of RNIB Cymru said "On a practical level this means that people in Wales have access to more services in their community, and that people are quite literally saving their sight by having regular eye health checks or eye screening. I am saddened that Jane Hutt is no longer the Minister for Health and Social Services and I urge Dr Brian Gibbons to continue developing services for preventing and treating sight loss in Wales".

## **Notes for Editors**

1. RNIB Cymru represents the 100,000 people in Wales who cannot read standard newsprint, even with corrective lenses, through campaigning, support and services. Our pioneering work helps anyone with a sight problem – not just with Braille, Talking Books and computer training but with imaginative and practical solutions to everyday challenges. We fight for equal rights for people with sight loss and fund pioneering research into preventing and treating eye disease.