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**Press Release**

Polio Register Launches

Polio Expert launches Register to account for Polio Survivors in Ireland

For Immediate Release – June 2017

A new Polio Register has been launched by leading UK Polio expert and author, Professor Gareth Williams, at the 2017 Conference & AGM of the Post Polio Support Group, in the Tullamore Court Hotel, on Wednesday 31 May.

“We are piloting this National Polio Register firstly in Galway,” says Fran Brennan, CEO, Post Polio Support Group. “We know there are 7,000 Polio Survivors estimated to live in Ireland, yet less than 1,000 are in touch with our organisation. We’ve consulted with our members to see what the main concerns are for Polio Survivors as they continue to age. It is vital that they are not forgotten as a population and that statutory planning for medical care and social welfare benefits take into account their needs relating to Polio.”

As author of *Paralysed with Fear: the story of polio* (2013), Professor Williams is well versed in the history of Polio, the onset and recognition of Post Polio Syndrome (PPS) and the continuing battle to eliminate the virus worldwide. He is Emeritus Professor of Medicine at Bristol University and as an Ambassador of the British Polio Fellowship, he helps to fight on behalf of all those affected by the after-effects of this devastating disease.

**Ends**

**About the Post Polio Support Group**

The Post Polio Support Group was established for Polio Survivors by Polio Survivors in 1993. We are the only organisation in Ireland providing practical services and support (and sometimes more importantly a listening ear) to those unfortunate enough to have contracted Polio when babies or young children. We work to raise awareness, provide information on Polio and its late effects and to ensure Polio Survivors can live with dignity.

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