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PRESS RELEASE

Dot Kirby's complaints against the BBC resolved

The BBC's Health Correspondent, Dot Kirby, has reached an agreement with the BBC in resolution of complaints she made to the Industrial Tribunal.

Dot Kirby has been employed by the BBC since August 1986, and has been Health Correspondent since 1994. She has had MS for 20 years and her condition worsened over the past ten years.

Dot Kirby submitted claims to the Industrial Tribunal in May and October 2008, alleging direct disability discrimination, disability related discrimination, victimisation, failure to make reasonable adjustments, sex discrimination and age discrimination. The BBC denies all of the allegations. Without admission of liability, Ms Kirby and the BBC have now reached an agreement.

Dot Kirby will be taking ill-health retirement from the BBC. In the light of this the BBC has exercised its discretion to award Ms Kirby a payment equivalent to one year's salary.

Eileen Lavery, Head of Strategic Enforcement in the Equality Commission, said that the Commission was happy to see the matter resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

As part of its ongoing commitment to equal opportunities, the BBC has agreed to a disability audit of Broadcasting House by Disability Action and to implement any reasonable recommendations from this audit. It has also agreed to liaise with the Equality Commission about training needs regarding disability awareness.

Note to Editors: The BBC and Dot Kirby have agreed not to make or publish any comment or statement other than is contained in this press release.

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