

# £23m centre for medical research and excellence opens in Inverness

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A FACILITY dedicated to medical research and development through a collaboration between the public and private sectors was officially opened in Inverness yesterday by Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism.

The £23m Centre for Health Science is designed to create a centre of excellence and encourage collabora-

tion in education, training, research, business incubation and commercialisation in the healthcare sector.

It is sited beside Raigmore Hospital, the largest hospital in the Highlands and Islands.

The centre brings together a seven-way partnership between Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), NHS Highland, NHS Education for Scotland (NES), University of Stirling, UHI Millennium Institute, University of Aberdeen and LifeScan Scotland Ltd.

LifeScan's production of diabetes kits has made it the largest private employer in Inverness, and the Highland Diabetes Institute is part of the centre.

The centre also accommodates the University of Stirling's department of nursing and midwifery, NES post-graduate medical centre and a new library for the Highland healthcare workforce.

Phase two of the centre also includes a clinical skills centre, which will be used to train students and staff.

