



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 26th May 2023



OLS Introduction

The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) is a joint unit between the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).

This bulletin aims to keep the life sciences sector up to date on the latest government announcements and wider opportunities in policy areas which may be of interest to the sector.

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LIFE SCIENCES GROWTH PACKAGE

NEW – Chancellor reveals life sciences growth package.

Today, the Government has unveiled an extensive £650 million life sciences package, reaffirming the Government's commitment to support a thriving life sciences sector.

This policy package supports a number of key areas, such as clinical trials, biomanufacturing, and skills, to make rapid progress against our Life Sciences Vision. These announcements, backed by over £650m in funding, will help maintain the UK's competitive advantage in Life Sciences – ensuring it remains an attractive destination for investment, improving our ability to respond to future health challenges, and ensuring that we have the talent to support the sector and create high-wage, high-skilled jobs across the UK.

The press notice and further detail can be found [here](#).

In summary, here are the key policy announcements:

1. **Publication of the Independent Review of Clinical Trials and the government Response.** Lord O'Shaughnessy has conducted this review, which aims to tackle concerns about the UK's ability to deliver commercial clinical trials. The Government has responded to the Review, committing £121m, to create an environment where clinical trials operate faster, are better embedded in the NHS, and seek to encourage investment in the UK.

2. **Publication of the Pro-Innovation Regulation of Technologies Review on Life Sciences and the government Response.** The Government Chief Scientific Adviser has led a specific review of regulation in the life sciences sector. The government response commits to support skills, collaboration and data sharing between industry and regulators, and to create accelerated regulatory pathways for innovative products.
3. **Driving investment through manufacturing, including a new biomanufacturing fund of up to £38m.** This is key to supporting manufacturing investments in the UK and will particularly focus on delivering health resilience and ensuring we are better prepared for future health emergencies, supporting cutting-edge R&D and innovation.
4. **Scaling up the UK's world-leading scientific assets through a new £154m investment in UK Biobank.** Dedicated funding will upgrade existing capabilities for this world-leading biomedical research resource.
5. **Continuing to ensure the sector can access the finance it needs to grow.** We have announced a call for proposals under the Long-Term Investment for Technology and Science (LIFTS) initiative, providing up to £250m to support successful proposals in mobilising institutional investment into the UK's innovative science and technology companies.
6. **Ensuring we have the right skills to support the sector.** This includes through an apprenticeship manual, securing the legacy of Cell and Gene Therapy Catapults skills pilots and funding to strengthen UK's medicines manufacturing ecosystem to deliver the skills industry needs.
7. **Driving adoption through "Health Innovation Networks".** We are continuing to support our new Integrated Care Systems to get innovations and the most impactful technologies into the NHS both nationally and at the local level, matched to the specific needs of the NHS and local communities. To support this, from October we'll be relaunching the Academic Health Science Network as Health Innovation Networks with clear links into their local health infrastructure based in 15 locations with clear objectives and KPIs.
8. **Demonstrating our ambition and delivering outcomes for patients through our Healthcare Missions.** We have announced the Chairs and details of the Mental Health and Addiction Missions, as well as the Cancer Mission Chair. These Missions seek to replicate the success of the Vaccine Taskforce in areas where we face the greatest healthcare challenges and illustrate the impact of industry-government collaboration.
9. **Taking steps to improve the supply of Life Sciences lab space through planning policy changes.** We will be consulting on adding requirements to the National Planning Policy Framework to say that decision-makers should pay regard to laboratory space and updating the Planning Practise Guidance to take account of the commercial land needs of businesses, including Life Sciences companies.
10. **Signalling the government's vision to continue to drive growth in the golden triangle with a route update on East West Rail (EWR).** This includes the preferred route for the railway line between Bedford and Cambridge, creating opportunities for lab space and job creation, alongside opportunities for a locally led new town at Tempsford.



NEWS

NEW – More choice to help cut hospital waiting times. Patients will now be given more choice and greater control over their own personal care, through the NHS App. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – Global Artificial Intelligence challenge to investigate veterans' cardiovascular health launched. A collaboration between regulators and healthcare organisations in the UK and US to build models that can help predict heart-failure related outcomes. **Read more [here](#).**



Useful Links

- The [Office for Life Sciences](#) homepage provides updates and information on all things from the Life Sciences sector and ongoing government work.
- Guidance for businesses on Brexit can be found [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for updates to rules, guidance and scheme documents for the Energy Bill Relief Scheme for non-domestic energy customers.
- Access the 'Check How to Export Goods' tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.
- Click [here](#) for updated information on the Covid-19 response from the Department for Health and Social Care and Public Health England.
- If you're a UK business selling goods or services to Europe, you can contact the UK government [export support team](#) by phone or online.
- Access the 'Check How to Export Goods' tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.
- Click [here](#) for more information and advice on exporting.
- In England, [Growth Hubs](#) can advise on local and UK Government business support.
- Register for HMRC's free [Trader Support Service](#) if you are moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Click [here](#) to view the latest weekly Trader Support Service (TSS) bulletin.
- The most up-to-date guidance on the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#) is on GOV.UK, including information on moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland.
- If you need to get in touch with the MHRA, please email MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk or phone 0203 080 6000.
- To provide feedback on what other information you'd find useful from MHRA, please contact engagement@mhra.gov.uk.
- You can call the government's Business Support helpline for free advice. To call the Business Support Helpline in England please dial **FREEPHONE 0800 998 1098**, Scotland **0300 303 0660**, Business Wales **0330 060 300** and Invest Northern Ireland **0800 181 4422**.