



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 9th 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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News

NEW – Rt Hon Chloe Smith MP has been appointed as Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology from 28 April 2023 while the Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP is on maternity leave.

NEW – The summary of the responses received to the Medicines Manufacturing Skills Market Engagement survey are now online. The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) conducted a consultation from 31 January to 17 February 2023 on medicines manufacturing skills provision in the UK. It sought to gather views on the demand for and the effectiveness of medicines manufacturing (MM) training provision. Please see [here](#) for the summary and full details on the consultation.

NEW – The Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund (LSIMF) phase 2 is open to expressions of interest. This fund is to support businesses investing in life sciences manufacturing projects in the UK and is now re-opening with the remaining budget of £7.6 million. Read more [here](#).

NEW – On 21st April, Minister George Freeman visited the R&D Cluster in West Midlands which featured Advanced Manufacturing, Robotics, MedTech, Clinical Trials, Clean Tech and Advanced Materials; and supports Levelling Up to create new jobs and opportunities in the UK.

NEW - Tim Peake and Ron Dennis are among 7 science and tech leaders appointed to the new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) Start-Up Board, led by

Shonnel Malani. These high-profile appointments demonstrate the UK government's seriousness to further the UK's science and tech leadership and agenda. Read more [here](#).

NEW - Wellcome Trust announced major investment in Wellcome Genome Campus in Cambridge which will deliver new lab space, homes, amenities, and unlock future development across 315-acre campus expansion site. Minister Freeman called the announcement "another reminder of the key role of our medical research charities and NHS in shaping the new landscape of patient-centred research — and helping the UK lead in the science, standards and commercial adoption of genomics which is transforming life science and medicine". Read more [here](#).

NEW – The interim Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology Chloe Smith took Oral Questions on Wednesday 3rd May on the topic of Private Investment in Life Sciences. You can read the questions and responses [here](#).



Medicines and Medical Devices

NEW – The government, NHS England and the pharmaceutical industry will begin negotiating the successor to the voluntary scheme for branded medicines, pricing and access (VPAS). Parties are negotiating an agreement that supports better patient outcomes and a healthier population, a financially sustainable NHS, while also supporting economic growth. Find out more [here](#).

NEW – CE marked medical devices will be accepted on the Great Britain market beyond the current deadline of 30 June 2023. A statutory instrument has been laid in Parliament, which will enable this extended timeframe that is still subject to parliamentary approval. Read more [here](#).



Net Zero

NEW – LionLink- the world's largest multi-use electricity power line will be built between UK and Netherlands under the North Sea, boosting UK energy supplies with enough to power 1.8 million homes – more than Birmingham and Manchester combined. 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**.