



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 21st February 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 guidance on workforce, trade, and regulation, providing you with information from Government to help your members and networks prepare.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email sonia.davies@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk



News

NEW – The government has appointed Lord James O’Shaughnessy, Senior Partner at consultancy firm Newmarket Strategy, Board Member of Health Data Research UK (HDR UK), and former Health Minister, to conduct an independent review into the UK commercial clinical trials landscape. More on the story can be found [here](#).

NEW - Patients waiting for organs will benefit from changes to organ transplant services designed to better match donated organs with recipients, increase the number of transplants and improve the patient experience. More on the story can be found [here](#).

NEW - Authorisation has today been granted by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for a new version of the Moderna ‘bivalent’ Covid vaccine (Spikevax) that targets both the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants. More on the story can be found [here](#).

NEW - The Cabinet Secretary is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Dame Angela McLean DBE FRS as the new Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GCSA). More on this story can be found [here](#).

NEW - Professor Julia Sutcliffe has been appointed as the Department for Business and Trade’s Chief Scientific Adviser, following a competitive recruitment process run by the Civil Service Commission. More on the story can be found [here](#).



Medical Devices

NEW – The EU Commission has voted to adopt an extension of the transition period for the EU Medical Device Regulations and to extend the validity of certain device certificates. More on this story can be found [here](#).



Net Zero

NEW - The climate and environment review of 2022 can be found on the latest [blog](#) from GAD and looks at the impact of climate change on a global scale.



Events

Keep up to date with all the latest available webinars:

- Watch past HMRC videos on coronavirus [here](#) and UK transition on imports and exports [here](#).
- Find videos to help you learn more about trading with the EU from 1 January 2021 [here](#).
- Click [here](#) to view a list of webinars for organisations that trade with the EU you can watch live or on demand.
- BEIS has launched a series of on demand videos, to help businesses familiarise themselves with the new rules. Topics include importing and exporting, trade, Rules of Origin, tariffs, data, and audit and accounting. To view the videos, click [here](#).
- Webinars giving an overview of the new rules that have come into place since leaving the EU customs union and the EU single market are now available to view. To access these, click [here](#).
- DEFRA have published a series of webinars for exporters of products of animal origin, live animals, plants and plant products. For more information, click [here](#).
- A calendar of upcoming webinars for organisations that trade with the EU is available [here](#). Topics include: importing, trader responsibilities, exporting and more.



Useful Links <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lord-oshaughnessy-to-lead-independent-review-into-uk-clinical-trials>

- 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.
- 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.
- Click [here](#) for updated information on the Covid-19 response from the Department for Health and Social Care and Public Health England.

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- Visit the [Business Climate Hub](#) and make the [SME Climate Commitment](#).
- 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**.