



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 27th March 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.

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



News

NEW - New use of thermal imaging could reduce diabetic foot amputations.

The Government Office for Technology Transfer (GOTT) has funded the National Physical Laboratory's development of an innovative new thermal imaging technology. More on this story can be found [here](#)

NEW - A sustained reduction in mpox (monkeypox) case numbers across England and the success of vaccination in helping to control the outbreak means the vaccination programme is no longer needed as an outbreak control measure and can now be wound down. Anyone eligible for mpox vaccination is urged to come forward for the vaccine in the coming months to protect themselves before the summer. More on this can be found [here](#)

NEW - The government will provide a plan to promote cyber resilience across the health and care sectors by 2030, protecting both services and patients. More on this story can be found [here](#)

GUIDANCE – Use this [link](#) to check how to register your medical devices with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for the markets in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

OTHER - The ABHI would like to bring your attention to a [survey](#) which explores various aspects of working in the HealthTech industry, and hear about your experiences. You do not have to be affiliated with ABHI in any way to take part in this survey. It is very much not limited to ABHI members, and its aim is to capture as much of the HealthTech industry as possible.

RECRUITMENT – The Office for Life Sciences are looking for a motivated and confident communicator to join and lead a high-profile briefing operation, working to Ministers and senior officials across two departments. This is an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of one of the most exciting policy areas in Government and support Ministers and senior officials to improve outcomes for patients, boost the economy, and bolster our health resilience. Please apply [here](#)



Medicines and Medical Devices

NEW - A series of new measures will be introduced by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) with support from partners to make it faster and easier to gain approval and to run clinical trials in the UK. More on this story can be found [here](#)

NEW - Sir Hugh Taylor has been appointed to the role of Chief Negotiations Adviser for the negotiation of the successor to the voluntary scheme for branded medicines pricing and access (VPAS). In his role, Sir Hugh will oversee the negotiations for the government and NHS on a successor to the 2019 VPAS, which expires at the end of 2023. More on this story can be found [here](#)



Net Zero

NEW - Speaking at the United Nations Water Conference, Lord Goldsmith announced a new programme to improve access to safe, reliable, and affordable water supplies. More on this story can be found [here](#)



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

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