



# Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 24<sup>th</sup> July 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 – Dementia biomarker tools competition opens today.** Innovate UK is opening a £6m Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) dementia biomarker tools competition today (24th July). The competition is seeking organisations, including small and medium-sized enterprises, to develop and commercialise technologies that can be used as clinical tools to enable the development of transformative clinical trials and precision dementia therapies.

Dementia is a complex disease with substantial variability in how patients respond to treatments. There is an urgent need for better clinical tools that can be used to identify the right patients for the right clinical trial and the right treatment. The application of innovations will feed in to and support the aims of the government's Dame Barbara Windsor Dementia Mission, which is looking to realise a new generation of dementia precision therapies for the UK. Read [here](#).

**NEW – Engineering biology: Call for evidence.** To inform the development of the UK engineering biology policy, the government is seeking views from the engineering biology research and business community. This call for evidence will be open for contribution until 29 September 2023. Read [here](#).

**NEW – Government backing UK engineering biology firms to revolutionise medicine, food and environmental protection.** UK firms harnessing the power of biology in a range of sectors were be under the spotlight in Downing Street last week as science leaders and ministers met to unleash the full potential of the UK's engineering biology sector. Read [here](#).

**NEW – Government acts to boost the quality of care for mothers and babies.** Measures to be taken on a national level to further improve safety standards in maternity care. Read [here](#).

**NEW – Boost for women and girls as Women’s Health Strategy turns one.** A year on from its Women’s Health Strategy, the government has announced a package of new measures to boost the health and wellbeing of women and girls. Read [here](#).

**NEW- MHRA launches public consultation on reclassification of opioid-containing cough medicine.** Health professionals and the public have until 15 August to share their views on the potential reclassification of codeine linctus to a prescription-only medicine. Read [here](#).



### **Net Zero**

**NEW- British nuclear revival to move towards energy independence.** Great British Nuclear to boost UK energy security, reduce dependence on volatile fossil fuel imports and deliver government priority to grow the economy. Read [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](mailto: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](mailto: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**.