



# Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 13 September 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](mailto:sonia.davies@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk)



## **News**

### **NEW – UK joins Horizon Europe under new bespoke deal**

UK scientists will have access to the world's largest research collaboration programme - Horizon Europe - as the Prime Minister secures a new deal. As of Thursday 7th September, UK researchers can apply for grants and bids under the Horizon programme. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme and Office for Life Sciences publishes the Cancer Mission: Early Cancer Diagnosis Clinical Validation and Evaluation Call**

The NIHR i4i Programme, in collaboration with the Office for Life Sciences Cancer Mission, has published its call for applications for a £12m funding call aimed at the clinical validation and evaluation of innovations aimed at impacting early detection and diagnosis of cancer. The call will open to applications on 24 October 2023. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – Innovate Awards 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023: Book your place [here!](#)**

The Innovate Awards - a collaboration between the AHSN Network and NHS Confederation - are back to celebrate innovation in healthcare. The finalists have been announced following a rigorous round of judging over the last few weeks. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Forum: Book your place [here!](#)**

The one-day Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Forum will address emerging opportunities and challenges and discuss ongoing research efforts to address these challenges. Topics include new process technologies, experimental protocols, computational models and decision-support tools. See attached leaflet and **read more [here](#).**

**NEW – UK Health Security Agency publishes technical briefing into the COVID-19 variant BA.2.86**

There have been 34 cases of the BA.2.86 variant detected in England, including an outbreak in a care home. The UKHSA have published SARS-CoV-2 variant surveillance and assessment technical briefing 53. **Read more [here](#).**

**NEW – Science facility that kickstarted COVID drug development granted £500m upgrade**

The Science and Technology Secretary has announced that the Diamond Light Source Science Facility in Oxfordshire will be upgraded. The world renowned site plays a key role in major health, engineering and environmental research. **Read more [here](#).**

**NEW – The Department of Science, Innovation and Technology has become first central government department to join STEM Futures.**

DSIT have joined STEM Futures, a partnership of organisations across industry, academia and the public sector providing opportunities such as placements, shadowing and mentoring. **Read more [here](#).**

**NEW – Major Government pledge to reduce England’s suicide rate launched**

The Department of Health and Social Care will provide action to aid specific groups at risk of suicide, with over 100 measures being taken so that thousands more people approaching a crisis get the support they need. **Read more [here](#).**

**NEW – Government to deliver an extra £50m home adaptation funding**

The additional funding aims to help older and disabled people to live more independently in their own homes. Adaptation grants support 50,000 people a year and aids the quicker discharge from hospital, cutting waiting times. **Read more [here](#).**

**NEW – Landmark study launched to seek women’s views on reproductive health**

The national online survey will gather vital data on women’s menstrual health, contraception, pregnancy planning, and menopause. The responses will shape future policy on women’s health and enhance care to improve wellbeing. **Read more [here](#).**

**NEW – NHS England invites over one million people for lung cancer checks**

As part of the biggest programme to improve early lung cancer diagnosis over one million former and current smokers have been invited to attend consultations. These consultations and chest scans will take place in convenient locations such as football stadiums, shopping car parks and town centres. **Read more [here](#).**

**NEW – MHRA approves Pfizer/BioNTech’s adapted COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) that targets Omicron XBB.1.5**

Approval was granted by the MHRA that targets the subvariant after it was found to meet the UK regulator’s standards of safety, quality and effectiveness. **Read more [here](#).**

**NEW – Guidance published on the new international regulatory recognition routes for medicines approvals**

The MHRA has issued detailed guidance on the new International Recognition Procedure (IRP) for medicines manufacturers, including how to apply for a medicine licence. **Read more [here](#).**

**NEW – NICE committee recommends tirzepatide as new treatment option for people with type 2 diabetes**

Around 180,000 people with difficult to manage type 2 diabetes could benefit from the new treatment option. **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](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**.