



# Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 26 October 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 – The Digital & Computing Skills Education Taskforce Entry-Level Technology Roles Survey is now live**

This short survey is aimed at employers and is looking to gather information on how they recruit to technology entry level roles (such as software developers, programmers, data analysts, machine learning engineers, cyber security roles etc.) and what skills and qualifications they are looking for. The survey will be live over the next two weeks, and they are keen for employers/organisations who hire entry level tech roles to fill this out so please forward to stakeholders who would be interested in feeding in. The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete and can be accessed [here](#).

### **NEW – Expert Regional Innovation hubs given £75 million boost to local research, businesses and economies across UK**

Eight dynamic innovation Launchpads in every corner of the country have been granted a share of £75 million to turbocharge ideas and regional economies through targeted support for SMEs. These will span key sectors including renewable energy, agri-tech, and digital healthcare solutions, supporting research, innovative resources for SMEs and joint ventures [Read more here](#).

### **NEW – Horizon Europe guarantee: updates for the UK research and development sector**

The latest information on the guarantee to provide funding for successful UK applicants to Horizon Europe. [Read more here](#).

### **NEW – MHRA and international partners publish five guiding principles for machine learning-enabled medical devices**

The MHRA, FDA and Health Canada have today published five guiding principles for the development of PCCPs for machine-learning-enabled medical device (MLMD) manufacturers. These guiding principles aim to support manufacturers of MLMDs by reducing the regulatory burden of reassessment following certain changes and updates to their devices. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – MHRA authorises bispecific antibody therapy Tepkinly as a treatment for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma in adults**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has today authorised a new medicine called Tepkinly (epcoritamab), a treatment for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (a type of blood cancer) in adults. It can be used to treat patients when the cancer has returned after previous treatment, or who have not responded to at least two previous treatments. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – IVF law change to benefit couples with fertility issues**

Hundreds of couples hoping to become parents but going through the distress of fertility issues will have their chances improved, as the government announces two significant law changes to in vitro fertilisation (IVF) provision in the UK. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – Earlier mental health support announced for thousands nationwide**

The government is making nearly £5 million available to provide earlier, open-access mental health intervention at 10 hubs in community locations. Thousands of children and young people will receive earlier mental health treatment in a move to help save lives and ensure fewer youngsters reach crisis point, through early support hubs across the country. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – Innovation projects in adult social care receive £42.6m boost**

Unpaid carers and those requiring care are in line to benefit from innovative new projects backed by a £42.6 million fund announced by the Department for Health and Social Care today, as the government continues to deliver on its vision for social care reform. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – NHS virtual wards to treat thousands of patients with heart failure at home**

New NHS clinical guidance published this week asks local health systems to expand their use of virtual wards to include heart failure patients who often spend a lot of time in hospital and can now get specialist care from the comfort of their own homes. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – First NICE-recommended treatment for Parkinson's set to benefit hundreds**

NICE has recommended foslevodopa–foscarbidopa (also called Produodopa and made by AbbVie) as an option for treating advanced Parkinson's, a progressive disorder that affects the nervous system and the parts of the body controlled by the nerves. **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.
- Information around Horizon Europe funding can be found [here](#).
- Guidance for businesses on Brexit can be found [here](#).
- Access the 'Check How to Export Goods' tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.

- 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.