



# Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 26 January 2024



## **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 – Funding call for Cancer Immunotherapy Response Research Platform**

The Office for Life Sciences and the Medical Research Council are delighted to announce that the opportunity to establish a £9m Cancer Immunotherapy Response Research Platform (CIRRP), has opened for applications. This as part of the Cancer Healthcare Mission, this will support a single consortium to develop a sustainable, broad utility platform that can provide deep phenotyping and genotyping capabilities to deliver actionable insights around patient response and adverse reactions to cancer based immune therapies. The application window will close on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Please share this funding call with your networks. **Read more and apply [here](#).**

### **NEW – Government announces £49.9 million of new funding for a coordinated network of dementia early phase trial sites across the country.**

The NIHR Dementia Translational Research Collaboration is developing a Trials Network (D-TRC-TN) which will work closely with industry partners and the wider dementia and neurodegeneration ecosystem, including the Government's Dame Barbara Windsor Dementia Mission. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – AIBIO-UK Network Expressions of Interest**

AIBIO-UK is a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council funded network to support and enhance engagement between the Bioscience and AI communities in the UK. They will support community events, funding of pilot projects and creation of resources for supporting use of AI in the biosciences. The network is currently registering expressions of interest to be part of their [Ethics/RRI Working Group](#) and [Steering Group](#) until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – UKHSA publishes its five-year Pathogen Genomics Strategy**

Pathogen genomics is one of the most powerful tools we have against infectious diseases and environmental hazards. The new [five-year plan](#) lays out plans to integrate pathogen genomics into our work to prepare for and respond to infectious public health threats over the next five years. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – NHS helps tens of thousands of people with mental health problems into work**

More than 40,000 people with mental health problems are being supported back into employment thanks to an NHS programme, new data shows. The figures come alongside a new campaign launching today urging more people to sign up for help they might need through the NHS Talking Therapies service. As part of a pilot programme across the country, currently 40,000 people are being linked up with employment advisors to support them back into work. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – MHRA launches new fees calculator**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has developed a [fees calculator](#) to help companies calculate the fees they will be charged when making an initial or a variation application for a medicinal product. Applications can be invalidated because the correct fee has not been paid. This new calculator will help companies avoid this problem. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – Four-dose Mounjaro “KwikPen” approved by MHRA for diabetes and weight management**

Mounjaro KwikPen is approved by the MHRA to treat adults with type 2 diabetes and for weight management in adult patients with a BMI of 30kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more (obesity), as well as those with a BMI between 27-30kg/m<sup>2</sup> (overweight) who also have weight-related health problems such as prediabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or heart problems. **Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – 300 people to benefit from new treatment for advanced breast cancer recommended by NICE following price deal**

The recommendation reverses NICE’s earlier draft decision not to recommend talazoparib for adults with BRCA 1 or 2 mutated HER2-negative locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer after prior chemotherapy. It follows the offer of an increased discount to the price of talazoparib, also called Talzenna, by the company (Pfizer). Currently there are no targeted treatments for this type of advanced breast cancer available in the NHS and alternative treatment options are limited. **Read more [here](#).**



#### **Useful Links**

- The [Office for Life Sciences](#) homepage provides the latest updates and information on the government's work with the life sciences sector.

- 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 [Windsor Framework](#) 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.