



# Office for Life Sciences

## Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 23 February 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 – Successful Completion of Phase 1 of the Reducing Drug Deaths Innovation Challenge**

Projects to develop novel technologies to prevent drug overdose deaths, funded through the Reducing Drug Deaths Innovation Challenge, have all [successfully completed the Phase 1 feasibility stage](#). This is important progress in leveraging cross-nation and cross-sector collaboration and innovation to address the urgent public health impact of drug use and addiction across the United Kingdom.

Participants will be invited to apply for the next phase of funding, where they can further validate and implement their solutions across the devolved nations. Phase 2 will allow for the development, testing and validation of a solution or prototype for up to 12 months.

**Read more about the projects funded in Phase 1 [here](#).**

#### **NEW – Baby loss certificate launched to recognise parents' grief**

Parents who have experienced the devastation of losing a baby before 24 weeks of pregnancy can apply for a certificate to have their grief recognised from today. The government is launching a voluntary scheme to allow parents to record and receive a certificate to provide recognition of their loss.

**Read more [here](#).**

#### **NEW – NHS rolls out 'wearable' 24-hour infusion for advanced Parkinson's**

Hundreds of NHS patients with advanced Parkinson's disease are set to benefit from a portable drug infusion that is gradually released around-the-clock to help better control their symptoms. The treatment, called foslevodopa–foscarbidopa, will now offer an additional option for certain patients experiencing movement-related symptoms and whose condition is no longer responding to their oral medicines. The easy-to-use infusion is delivered through a cannula under the skin and controlled by a small automatic pump worn 24 hours a day to help steadily manage patients' symptoms with fewer side effects.

**Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – NHS to roll out ‘Martha’s Rule’**

The [patient safety initiative](#) is set to be rolled out to at least 100 NHS sites and will give patients and their families round-the-clock access to a rapid review from an independent critical care team if they are worried about their or a loved one’s condition. This escalation process will be available 24/7 to patients, families and NHS staff, and will be advertised throughout hospitals, making it quickly and easily accessible.

**Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – Thousands with cancer-causing condition offered life-saving NHS bowel cancer screening**

The NHS is offering routine preventative bowel cancer screening to thousands of people in England with a genetic condition that increases their chance of developing certain cancers. This is a world-first move by the health service to help reduce cases and identify bowel cancers earlier when successful treatment and cure is more likely.

**Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – NHS campaign to help patients get treatment from their pharmacy**

Patients can now get treatment and medicines from their local pharmacy for seven common conditions, covering sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bite, impetigo, shingles, and uncomplicated urinary tract infections. The NHS in England has worked with pharmacies to promote the new support available for patients as part of its Help Us, Help You campaign, to raise awareness of the services, now available across the country.

**Read more [here](#).**

### **NEW – Science minister visits STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory**

On 22 February 2024, Science Minister Andrew Griffith visited Harwell Science and Innovation Campus to tour several facilities. The facilities visited by Minister Griffith included RAL Space, operated by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC). His visit coincided with the release of the Harwell Campus annual report which celebrates the addition of 25 new businesses around the STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL), which forms part of the campus. These new businesses span various sectors, including pharmaceuticals, space exploration, agriculture and energy and have brought a total of more than 300 jobs to the local area.



## **Useful Links**

- The [Office for Life Sciences](#) homepage provides the latest updates and information on the governments 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 use the contact details below:
  - Email: [MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk)
  - Phone: 0203 080 6000