



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 08 March 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



News

NEW – Spring Budget puts UK on fast-track to becoming science and technology superpower

Alongside tax cuts for workers, harnessing technology to benefit the public sector was at the heart of the Chancellor's Spring Budget that will deliver the long-term change our country needs to deliver a brighter future for Britain and improve economic security and opportunity for everyone.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – £360 million to boost British manufacturing and R&D

The Chancellor announced a significant investment package in the UK's life sciences and manufacturing sectors. This includes £92 million joint government and industry investment to expand facilities to manufacture life-saving medicines and diagnostics products, £200 million joint investment in zero-carbon aircraft technology to develop a more sustainable aviation sector and almost £73 million in automotive technology. This follows the Advanced Manufacturing Plan to give the industry the long-term certainty to grow and invest in the UK, backed by £4.5 billion of targeted support announced at Autumn Statement to boost the British manufacturing sector.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – UK and Saudi Arabia unveil joint plan to put research links into top gear

Science Minister Andrew Griffith, and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Minister of Communications and Information Technology, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Research Development and Innovation Authority, His Excellency Abdullah Alswaha, will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on plans to elevate the two countries' science and research links, in Riyadh.

Read more [here](#).

NEW A public consultation on our new approach to prioritising guidance is now open

Running for 4 weeks, the consultation seeks your views about our plans to make topic selection and prioritisation more integrated, effective and timely.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – £10 million to support suicide prevention

People struggling with their mental health will be better supported thanks to a £10 million funding boost for organisations working to prevent suicides. A total of 79 organisations, including a suicide prevention helpline, will receive funding through the government's Suicide Prevention VCSE Grant Fund. This will expand access to support services covering every region in the country, including the areas with the highest rates of suicide.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – NHS rolls out new immunotherapy for hundreds of women with advanced endometrial cancer

The NHS will roll out a new immunotherapy that could offer women with advanced endometrial cancer significant extra time before their disease progresses, compared with standard chemotherapy alone. Trials have shown that adding dostarlimab (Jemperli) to chemotherapy can slow the spread of certain forms of endometrial cancer, giving patients the hope of more time to live well before their condition worsens.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Pilot projects will aid better and safer use of data in research

Four pilot projects, referenced by the Chancellor in the 2024 Budget, will test ways to collaborate and share data to solve important problems in society, energy, transport and more. The pilots will provide valuable evidence on what more needs to be done to optimise the research data ecosystem in the UK, ensure researchers have secure access to high quality data, and to cement the UK's status as a world-leading research hub.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – £1.5 million to find new ways to reduce infection spread

Companies and research groups with innovative ideas will get a chance to shape the way the UK responds to infection, and bid for funding, through a new initiative. Two 'sandpit' events are being held in Liverpool on 14 March 2024 and London on 9 May 2024. These intensive innovation workshops will help to spark ideas, foster innovation and create new collaborations to tackle this urgent challenge and drive forward new projects. The sessions are being funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) but run by the Infection Innovation Consortium (iiCON), a consortium led by Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Read more [here](#).



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
 - Phone: 0203 080 6000