



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 22 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.

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sonia.davies@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk



News

NEW – Scott Mitchell named People’s Champion for Government’s Dame Barbara Windsor Dementia Mission

Scott Mitchell appointed People’s Champion of our national Mission to beat dementia, founded in his wife Dame Barbara Windsor’s memory. The appointment comes alongside several milestones in the delivery of the government’s Dementia Mission:

- the successful recipients of £6 million in funding for ten game-changing projects to use breakthrough technologies like AI to overhaul dementia diagnosis;
- the appointment of Dr Ruth McKernan as Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the new "Neurodegeneration Initiative"; and
- the Medicines Discovery Catapult as the delivery partner for the set up of the "Neurodegeneration Initiative" as part of the Mission to speed up the development of novel treatments.

Read more [here](#).

The announcements were made at a roundtable and reception at No.10 on Wednesday 20 March, where charities, academics, investors, business leaders and people with lived experience came together to further accelerate efforts to tackle this devastating illness.

See more on the No10 reception [here](#).

NEW – Start for Life campaign - If They Could Tell You

A new government campaign – Start for Life’s If They Could Tell You – has launched to support parents to help build secure bonds to help nurture their baby’s future mental health, along with easy-to-follow guidance on the Start for Life website as new research highlights many parents are unaware of the link between their baby’s good mental health and early childhood development.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Thousands more lung cancer patients to get innovative blood test as part of NHS pilot

A blood test which could help thousands of people receive earlier, more targeted, lung cancer treatments is being trialled by the NHS. The circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) test, which will be offered

to 10,000 patients by next March, can identify genetic variants in a tumour through a simple blood sample.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Winners of £12 million REforMM CR&D competition announced

Innovate UK has announced the 18 projects selected in the Resource Efficiency for Materials and Manufacturing (REforMM) collaborative R&D competition. The competition aims to fund ambitious collaborative research and development projects to support UK materials and manufacturing organisations to become significantly more resource efficient.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – New Framework for bioscience infrastructure

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council's (BBSRC) first infrastructure strategic framework sets out a comprehensive approach to support the evolving needs of the UK bioscience ecosystem over the years to come.

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