



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 12 April 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 – Medical Technology Strategy: One year on

This sets out achievements made since the launch of the MedTech strategy and the next steps to boost the adoption of medical technology in the NHS.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – UK & United States announce partnership on science of AI safety

The UK and US have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will see them work together to develop tests for the most advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models, following through on commitments made at the AI Safety Summit in November 2023. Signed by Technology Secretary Michelle Donelan and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, the partnership will see both countries working to align their scientific approaches and working closely to accelerate and rapidly iterate robust suites of evaluations for AI models, systems, and agents.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Business-led schemes set to boost growth all over the UK

The Innovate UK Launchpad programme has offered £16 million funding for 101 new projects. The Innovate UK Launchpad programme supports clusters of small and medium-sized enterprises and the most innovative businesses to progress their ideas towards commercialisation, contributing to local economic growth.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – MRC fund to improve public involvement in discovery science

Researchers can seek support for projects up to £625,000 to improve the design and practice of public involvement in non-clinical health and biomedical research. Non-clinical research is an area that has traditionally been seen as harder to involve the public, patients, carers and communities. The fund

aims to support the development of toolkits that can be widely used to enrich public involvement in research.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Children and young adults to benefit after NICE recommends personalised immunotherapy to treat blood cancer be made routinely available on the NHS

Children and young adults with a form of leukaemia that develops rapidly are set to benefit after NICE recommended an innovative, life-extending treatment where the person's own immune cells are modified to fight the cancer.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – 170,000 people in England to have further treatment choice for preventing migraine attacks.

In final draft guidance published NICE has recommended atogepant, the first of a new type of oral treatment option for preventing both chronic and episodic migraines, opening the way for up to 170,000 people to choose it on the NHS in England. Also called Aquipta and made by AbbVie, NICE has recommended atogepant as an option for preventing chronic and episodic migraines in adults who have had at least four migraine days per month and where at least three previous preventive treatments have failed.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Fosdenopterin approved to treat adult patients with molybdenum cofactor deficiency (MoCD) Type A

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the medicine fosdenopterin (Nulibry) to treat the genetic disease Molybdenum Cofactor Deficiency (MoCD) Type A.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Diagnostic checks rolled out to 160 sites under CDC programme

Community diagnostic centre (CDC) sites have already delivered over 7 million tests, checks and scans to patients across England. Patients can now benefit from vital tests, checks and scans being delivered at 160 sites across England as part of the CDC programme.

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