



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 26 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.

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sonia.davies@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk



News

NEW Blog – April MedTech regulatory reform update: international recognition, IVDs and AI

MedRegs Blog: An official blog of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), providing expert insight on the latest regulatory thinking and all aspects of medicines regulation. Find our latest update on MedTech regulatory reform for April.

Read more [here](#).

New – DSIT bolsters its leadership team to drive UK's science and tech superpower mission

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology's (DSIT) has appointed leading experts in health, law, risk management and marketing to oversee work to transform the UK into a science and technology superpower, bolstering the DSIT board with a series of key leadership figures.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – i.AI and NHS England sign Collaboration Charter to support the use of AI in the NHS

The Incubator for Artificial Intelligence (i.AI) an elite team of technical experts at the heart of government, and NHS England have signed a Collaboration Charter to support the use of AI in the NHS. The partnership, which has today been formalised, seeks to empower the NHS workforce to use AI to improve and speed up patient care. The Charter also sets out to draw on the benefits of AI to improve staff experience and drive greater NHS operational efficiency.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – NHS online weight loss programme highlighted as a success in new study

The NHS Digital Weight Management Programme is helping patients referred to the service to lose over 8 pounds, new research shows. A new peer reviewed paper, published in The Obesity Journal, shows that 63,937 people were referred to the scheme in its first year with 50% taking up the offer and enrolling onto the service.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – NHS to roll out first targeted treatment for rare childhood brain tumours

The NHS is set to roll out the first ever targeted treatment for brain tumours in children and young people in England, which can be taken at home and has been shown to significantly slow the progression of the disease, allowing them a better quality of life for longer. Dabrafenib with trametinib has been found to stop the disease progressing for more than three times as long as standard chemotherapy for children with low-grade gliomas that have a specific genetic mutation, while helping many be spared the harsh side effects that can come with chemotherapy.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Review to shape next phase of The Alan Turing Institute

A new review outlining the impact and value of The Alan Turing Institute, the UK's national institute for data science and AI, has been published. The review also sets out recommendations to build on the Turing's success and to guide its next phase. The quinquennial review was conducted by a panel of independent experts and has provided advice to both the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the institute.

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