



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 17 May 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 – £85 million pledged to tackle antibiotic emergency

A package of up to £85 million to support the international community in tackling the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance, a global issue that makes infections difficult or impossible to treat, was announced on Thursday 16 May.

Read more [here](#).

New – MHRA announces dedicated new team to support the international community in tackling antimicrobial resistance

Backed by a new award of £1.8 million, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is to establish a dedicated team to provide regulatory scientific support for innovators creating novel antimicrobials and diagnostics as part of a programme led by the Department of Health and Social Care to support the international community in tackling the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Innovation in regulation is shortening timelines for lowest risk clinical trials

Following MHRA approval of a clinical trial, a study on Nuwiq, a recombinant FVIII therapy for the treatment of haemophilia A, can proceed.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Safety of advanced AI under the spotlight in first ever independent, international scientific report

New research supported by over 30 nations, as well as representatives from the EU and the UN, shows the impact AI could have if governments and wider society fail to deepen their collaboration on AI safety, as the first iteration of the International Scientific Report on the Safety of Advanced AI is

published today (Friday 17 May). Launched at the AI Safety Summit, the development of the report was one of the key commitments to emerge from the Bletchley Park discussions, coming as part of the landmark Bletchley Declaration.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Expansion of life-saving opioid overdose treatment

More professionals such as nurses, paramedics, police officers and probation workers will be able to supply a life-saving opioid overdose antidote without a prescription to save the lives of the most vulnerable. The government will shortly update legislation to enable more services and individuals to provide take-home supplies of naloxone, which almost immediately reverses the effects of an opioid overdose by reversing breathing difficulties.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – First ever life-saving treatment for rare heart condition available on the NHS

NHS patients with a life-threatening heart condition are set to benefit from a cutting-edge new medicine which can significantly reduce the risk of hospitalisation and death. The drug, tafamidis, is the first ever approved treatment for a cohort of patients in England with a rare heart condition known as transthyretin amyloidosis cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM), where clumps of protein build up in the heart, often resulting in heart failure and potentially proving fatal.

Read more [here](#).

NEW – Hubs launched to create a sustainable future for manufacturing

Five new hubs aim to address the challenge of commercialising early-stage research within key areas of manufacturing, such as semiconductors and medicines. A key goal of the new hubs is also to improve environmental sustainability in manufacturing processes.

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