



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 15 December 2023



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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News

NEW – MHRA supports launch of Innovate UK's first-of-its-kind initiative to fund new Regulatory Science and Innovation Networks

Launched yesterday (Wednesday 13 December) by Innovate UK, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has joined partners across government including the Office for Life Sciences to provide support and invite academic institutions in the UK to apply to become a member of a Regulatory Science and Innovation Network. In a drive to proactively deliver agile and robust regulatory pathways and guidance to support the innovators of today and tomorrow, the MHRA has helped shape the design of this programme with partners across government, which will enable research informing the future of UK regulatory practice.

Applications can be made through [UKRI's Innovation Funding Service](#). **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – £10 million invested in cancer and chronic health conditions

Innovate UK and the Office for Life Sciences (OLS) announce support for innovation in chronic conditions and cancer. Innovate UK and OLS will invest £10 million in 17 projects as part of the advancing precision medicines competition. The OLS funding is part of the Life Sciences Vision cancer mission. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – Plan to move government roles out of Westminster brought forward and new headquarters unveiled

Government brings forward target to relocate 22,000 roles out of London from 2030 to 2027. Aberdeen, Darlington and Greater Manchester are to host second headquarters for major departments. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – Manchester momentum: Science and tech department officially launches new second home in Salford

Hundreds of new roles will be coming to Manchester after the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology announced that it will establish its second headquarters in Salford, Greater Manchester. Greater Manchester is renowned for its industrial legacy and pioneering spirit, with a storied history intertwined with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). **Read more [here](#).**

NEW– Patients and pharmacies to benefit from changes to supervision

Plans to make better use of pharmacies, improve access to primary care and maximise the contribution of pharmacy professionals across healthcare have been set out in a government consultation on pharmacy supervision, launched. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – Patient safety boost as medical associates to be regulated

Physician associates and anaesthesia associates will soon be regulated by the General Medical Council, improving patient safety and supporting plans to expand medical associate roles in the NHS to relieve pressure on doctors and GPs. The government will lay legislation this week to allow the GMC to begin the process of regulating medical associates, who are medically trained healthcare professionals who work alongside doctors to care for patients. **Read more [here](#).**

NEW – Booking a job “as easy as booking a cab” in NHS App overhaul

The NHS is setting out how it will increase national uptake of lifesaving vaccinations, ensuring millions more people receive protection against a range of diseases. Published today, the ambitious NHS vaccination strategy will outline how getting vaccinations will be made easier than ever before, including through expansion of the NHS App, ‘one stop shops’ and community outreach. Millions more people will be able to view their full vaccination record and book in for vaccines on the NHS App over the coming months and years. **Read more [here](#).**



Useful Links

- The [Office for Life Sciences](#) homepage provides updates and information on all things from the Life Sciences sector and ongoing government work.
- 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 [Northern Ireland Protocol](#) 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 email MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk or phone 0203 080 6000.