

# An overview of the Life Sciences Sector plan

The UK Life Sciences Sector Plan sets out a £2 billion strategy to boost health and economic growth by strengthening R&D, accelerating innovation adoption and making the UK an outstanding place to **start, scale and invest** in Life Sciences businesses.

Six headline actions to position the UK as the leading life sciences economy in Europe by 2030, and third globally by 2035:

**Health Data Research Service (HDRS):** The Government and Wellcome Trust will invest £600m in a competitive data ecosystem that integrates genomic, diagnostic and clinical data to attract international R&D to the UK and make UK’s health data securely available at scale.



**Faster trial setup times:** The O’Shaughnessy reforms will be implemented to remove bureaucratic delays and cut trial setup times to under 150 days, aiming to double patient recruitment into clinical trials by 2026, and again by 2029



**Investment into Life Sciences manufacturing:** The government will provide up to £520m in grants to the Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund, to incentivise globally mobile Life Sciences manufacturing investments in the UK.



**Streamlining regulation and market access:** A single-entry integrated advice service between the MHRA and NICE to align regulatory and HTA decisions and provide a clearer route to market



**Low-friction NHS procurement:** The Rules Based Pathway is designed to speed up the adoption of medtech by supporting companies with tailored commercial guidance and access to NHS sites for testing and evidence generation



**Strategic partnerships with industry:** A commitment to developing at least one major strategic partnership each year with leading Life Sciences companies and creating a support service to help 10-20 high-potential companies scale and attract investment while remaining UK-based.



## The three core pillars of Implementation

Enabling world class R&D	Making the UK an outstanding place to start, grow, scale + invest	Driving health innovation and NHS reform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued large-scale investment in discovery and foundational research</li><li>Creation of new pre-clinical model research networks, backed by £30m, to reduce fragmentation and support industry-led innovation</li><li>Enhanced support for small and medium sized biotech and medtech enterprises through improved funding offers</li><li>Scaling national genomics assets and streamlining access to linked health data (Our Future Health, Genomics England, UK Biobank).</li><li>Shifting R&amp;D funding towards preventative products and services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Start:</b> The British Business Bank will double investment in new fund managers and cornerstone funds, while UK Export Finance will provide tailored services to help SMEs enter global markets</li><li><b>Grow:</b> Sector specific training programmes to build high-demand skill (AI and entrepreneurship)</li><li><b>Scale:</b> £4 billion Industrial Strategy Growth Capital for scaling firms and crowding in private capital.</li><li><b>Invest:</b> A new Supply Chain centre to identify vulnerabilities and improve resilience through supplier diversification in drug manufacturing to build investor confidence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>New health innovation zones will give local systems the flexibility to test and scale innovative technologies, commissioning models and care pathways</li><li>The NHS will accelerate the uptake of clinically appropriate biosimilars and generics, and reinvest savings to support new treatments and innovation</li><li>Patients will benefit from new digital tools like the ‘HealthStore’ which will support disease management</li><li>NHS supply chain will adopt a growth mandate, embedding innovation alongside value for money</li></ul>

## Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth (VPAG)



The VPAG scheme is positioned as a key investment tool to expand clinical trial capacity and speed up regulatory processes. However, the ABPI is concerned that high VPAG payment rates (ranging from 23.5-35.6% of NHS sales revenue) are not competitive globally and undermine the UK’s appeal for investment. Without sustainable pricing, the UK risks remaining a country where innovative medicines are developed but not integrated into the standard of care.

## Increasing the UK’s competitiveness



The UK aims to boost its global competitiveness and help companies access the \$2 trillion+ global market by 2028 through a new Trade Strategy, strengthened trade relationships and targeted export support. The government will promote high IP standards, regulatory co-operation, and resilient medical supply chains through bilateral and multilateral partnerships. This whole-of-government approach seeks to open markets, drive innovation, and align supply resilience with economic growth.