

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**Life Sciences and the Industrial Strategy****Call for Evidence**

The House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lord Patel, is conducting an inquiry into Life Sciences and the Industrial Strategy. The Committee invites interested individuals and organisations to submit evidence to this inquiry. The deadline for written evidence submissions is **Friday 15 September 2017**.

Background

The UK life sciences sector is high-tech, research-intensive, diverse and innovative. According to one analysis, it contributed £30.7bn to the economy in 2015 and supports a total of 482,000 jobs.¹ However, to tackle challenges like cancer and dementia it is important that the UK continues to have a strong life sciences sector. The sector faces a number of challenges and opportunities, including Brexit, with much of the regulation of the sector coming from the EU. In this context, as part of its wider work on an Industrial Strategy the Government has asked Sir John Bell to carry out work on a Life Sciences strategy and a 'sector deal' for life sciences.² The Industrial Strategy green paper states that Sir John will lead work on a "new strategy to make the UK the best place in the world to invest in life sciences".³ It is unclear how the relative attractiveness of the UK to life science investors will be assessed. The Committee is launching this inquiry now to contribute to the discussion around the strategy and the role of the Government and business in its development and implementation.

Scope

The Committee's inquiry will consider the upcoming life sciences industrial strategy, which the Government asked Sir John Bell to work on as part of its wider industrial strategy. The new life sciences industrial strategy is expected to be published during the period in which this call for evidence is open and the Committee would welcome the views of respondents on the contents of the strategy.

The Coalition government published a [UK Life Sciences strategy](#) in 2011, which was subsequently re-launched in 2013. The 2011 Life Sciences Strategy containing a number of "key actions". These included an early access scheme for innovative new therapies, a £310m investment to support the commercialisation of research, an enhanced UK clinical trials gateway and a number of high-level apprenticeships. The Committee will investigate the impact of this strategy and what lessons can be learned for the new strategy.

¹ PwC, [The Economic contribution of the UK Life Sciences industry](#), March 2017

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-unveils-plans-for-a-modern-industrial-strategy-fit-for-global-britain>

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611705/building-our-industrial-strategy-green-paper.pdf

George Freeman MP served as a dedicated life sciences minister from 2014-2016. However, he was not replaced in July 2016. Responsibility for Life Sciences is now split between Lord O'Shaughnessy in the Department of Health and Lord Prior in the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Both ministers also have other ministerial responsibilities. The Committee will investigate whether the Government has the necessary structures in place to support the life sciences sector and the life sciences industrial strategy. Furthermore it will look at how the devolved administrations will be involved in the implementation of the strategy.

In 2014 the Government commissioned the Accelerated Access Review to look into speeding up access to innovative drugs, devices, diagnostics and digital products for NHS patients. The review was independently chaired by Sir Hugh Taylor and supported by the Wellcome Trust. In October 2016 the review published its final report. The Government has yet to respond to the report and its recommendations. The Committee will investigate how these recommendations can be implemented alongside the life sciences industrial strategy and broader issues around the collaboration between researchers and the NHS and how the NHS can use procurement to stimulate innovation in the life sciences sector.

In its previous work on the Industrial Strategy green paper the Committee heard evidence that there is a problem with the availability of patient capital in the UK for developing innovations and growing new companies. The Prime Minister announced a Patient Capital Review in November 2016, to be led by HM Treasury, which “will identify barriers to access to long-term finance for growing firms. The Committee will further investigate this problem, with particular focus on the life sciences sector.

Questions

The Committee invites submissions on the following points, with practical examples and other evidence where possible.

Please only answer those questions of relevance to you. The Committee is very much interested in views from both within and outside the life sciences sector. Please also do draw the Committee's attention to any relevant issues not captured in the specific questions below:

Science and innovation

1. How can investors be encouraged to invest in turning basic life science research into new innovations in treatment? Why has investment been lacking in this sector? Does the research base have the necessary infrastructure to be world-leading?
2. Why has the UK underperformed in turning basic research in the life sciences into intellectual property? What needs to be done to address this historic weakness in the UK and grow new companies to commercialise new research and related technologies in the life sciences?
3. What can be done to ensure the UK has the necessary skills and manpower to build a world class life sciences sector, both within the research base and the NHS?
4. How does the UK compare to other countries in this sector, for example Germany and the United States?

Industrial Strategy

5. What can be learnt from the impact of the 2011 UK Life Sciences Strategy? What evidence is there that a strategy will work for the life sciences sector? How can its success be measured against its stated objectives?
6. (If published) Does the strategy contain the right recommendations? What should it contain/what is missing? How will the life sciences strategy interact with the wider industrial strategy, including regional and devolved administration strategies? How will the strategies be coordinated so that they don't operate in 'silos'?
7. What opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are there/should there be in the strategy? How can they be involved in its development and implementation?
8. Where should the funding come from to support the implementation of the strategy?
9. How do the devolved administrations and city regions fit into the strategy? Scotland has its own life sciences strategy, how will the two interact?

NHS procurement and collaboration

10. How can public procurement, in particular by the NHS, be an effective stimulus for innovation in the Life Sciences Sector? Can it help support emerging businesses in the Life Sciences sector?
11. How can the recommendations of the Accelerated Access Review be taken forward alongside the strategy? Will the recent changes to the NHS England approval process for drugs have a positive or negative effect on the availability of new and innovative treatments in the NHS? How can quick access to new treatments and the need to provide value for money be reconciled?
12. How can collaboration between researchers and the NHS be improved, particularly in light of increased fiscal pressures in the NHS? Will the NHS England research plan help in this regard? How can the ability of the NHS to contribute to the development of and adopting new technology be improved?

Responsibility and accountability?

13. Who should take responsibility for the implementation of the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy and to whom should they be accountable? What should the UK Government's role be? What should the role of the academic, charitable and business sectors be?
14. What is the role of companies within the sector, particularly the large pharmaceutical companies, in the implementation of the strategy? How are they accountable for its success?
15. Does the Government have the right structures in place to support the life science sector? Is the Office of Life Sciences effective? Should the Government appoint a dedicated Life Sciences Minister? If so, should that Minister have UK-wide or England-only responsibilities?

Brexit

16. What impact will Brexit have on the Life Sciences sector? Will the strategy help the sector to mitigate the risks and take advantage of the opportunities of Brexit?

17. How should the regulatory framework be changed or improved after Brexit to support the sector?
18. To what extent should the UK remain involved with and contribute to agencies such as the EMA post Brexit?

Respondents need not provide responses to all questions. **Equally, if there are any crucial issues not captured under the questions we pose, please highlight what they are and explain their salience.**

The deadline for receiving written submissions is Friday 15 September. Public hearings will be held in October and November 2017. The Committee aims to report to the House, with recommendations in spring 2018. The report will receive a response from the Government, and may be debated in the House. **Instructions as to how to respond to this Call for Evidence can be found in Annex I overleaf.**

21 July 2017

ANNEX I: GUIDANCE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Written evidence should be submitted online using the written submission form available at <http://www.parliament.uk/life-sciences-written-submission-form>. This page also provides guidance on submitting evidence. The deadline for written evidence is **15 September 2017**.

If you have difficulty submitting evidence online, please contact the Committee staff by email hlscience@parliament.uk or by telephoning 020 7219 5750.

Shorter submissions are preferred. A submission longer than eight pages should include a one-page summary. Paragraphs should be numbered. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Evidence which is accepted by the Committee may be published online at any stage; when it is so published it becomes subject to parliamentary copyright and is protected by parliamentary privilege. Submissions which have been previously published will not be accepted as evidence.

Once you have received acknowledgement that the evidence has been accepted you will receive a further email, and at this point you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself. In doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee, and you should be aware that your publication or re-publication of your evidence may not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Personal contact details will be removed from evidence before publication, but will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, for instance to seek additional information.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast online; transcripts are also taken and published online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the clerk of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at: <http://www.parliament.uk/life-sciences-industrial-strategy>.