



***Life Sciences***  
**Industrial Strategy for  
a New Government**  
***Interim Report 2024***

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## Inquiry Session 4, Clinical Uptake, Adoption and Improved Population Outcomes

**R**egardless of how effective new treatments and medications are, they will change little if the public is unable to access them. Methods to increase clinical uptake and adoption are necessary if population health outcomes are to improve.

The fourth inquiry session focussed on clinical uptake, adoption, and improved population outcomes. The session was chaired by Chair of the National Health Innovation Network, Richard Stubbs, and former Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for NHS England, Dr Keith Ridge. Keynote speakers joined the Health, Care and Life Sciences Research Group, including:

- Lord James O'Shaughnessy – Author, UK Review of Commercial Clinical Trials
- Andrew Davies – Digital Health Lead, ABHI
- Seamus Harrison – Vice President, Genomics PLC
- Kristin-Anne Rutter – Executive Director, Cambridge University Health Partners
- Jim McArdle – Head of Business Development Strategy, IQVIA
- Helen Dent – Interim Chief Executive, BIVDA
- Lord Ara Darzi – Paul Hamlyn Chair of Surgery at Imperial College London

## Opening Comments from Lord O’Shaughnessy

The session opened with comments from Lord James O’Shaughnessy, who explained that consistency in a life sciences vision is essential. Covid-19 demonstrated what the UK is capable of, but it is challenging to get the NHS to buy into the life sciences vision. The UK hasn’t delivered on the NHS as a partner or achieved the 50 per cent increase in clinical trials goals from the 2021 strategy. He felt that there is not a continuous culture of innovation in the health system. To offset this, protected innovation funding would ensure stability for driving innovation.

Clinical trials struggle to be kept on the political agenda as it is hard to quantify the benefits of clinical trials. There is a greater need for accountability, which O’Shaughnessy would push for, for patients to demand research and have easier access to trials. Currently, there is no public clinical trials database for patients to check for trials they would like to participate in. It needs to be easier to take part in trials. O’Shaughnessy believes that trusts need to show local initiative and that there’s a huge primary care opportunity. He is concerned that the NHS leadership is not showing enough focus on clinical trials. He said, “It needs people talking about it and wanting to do something and keeping up the pressure. So that’s the struggle in a way, because it’s the long-term important stuff that tends to get crowded out by the equally important, but also very urgent stuff.”

## The Role of the Centre

Andrew Davies stated that central-driven reviews have not fundamentally changed anything. Whilst they brought in some helpful payment methods (with some issues), they don’t address practical issues like pathway changes and upskilling. He said “There are numerous examples now of how once that central funding is withdrawn, you reach a cliff edge, and you don’t go any further because it’s not getting baked into business as usual.”

**“ Change happens locally, it doesn’t happen nationally”**

**Lord Ara Darzi**

In his opinion, the role of the centre is creating the right environment for local organisations to implement innovations, supporting them with central expertise. National assessments and passporting schemes are particularly effective at this. He advised that the handoff from NICE into the system needs to be better, especially for technology. In general, local levels need greater resourcing and clinicians need time protected for innovation.

## Employment



**One in every 121** employed people in the UK worked in the Life Sciences sector, in 2023<sup>1</sup>



**More than 70%** of life science companies in the UK are experiencing staff shortages in 2023<sup>2</sup>



The sector will need to fill **133,000 jobs** by 2030, adding almost **50%** to current employment levels in 2023<sup>3</sup>

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**Overall**, the number of people employed by life sciences businesses in the UK increased by **117%** in the five years to 2021/22, with 304,190 employees<sup>4</sup>

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## Investment

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**Increased R&D investment** could add **£68 billion** to GDP over the next **30 years** in 2023<sup>5</sup>

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**UK biotechs** secured **£1.8 billion** in equity financings in 2023<sup>6</sup>

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**Third globally** for volume of Foreign Direct Investment projects won in 2022<sup>7</sup>

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1 <https://www.oxfordeconomics.com/resource/uk-life-sciences-are-set-for-growth-but-challenges-remain/>

2 <https://www.mha.co.uk/insights/2024-outlook-for-life-sciences-pharmaceuticals>

3 <https://www.knightfrank.com/research/article/2023-05-17-the-growth-sector-of-the-moment-life-science>

4 <https://www.thebusinessdesk.com/northwest/news/2126487-new-data-shows-nw-experiencing-biggest-growth-in-life-sciences-sites-outside-london>

5 <https://www.pwc.co.uk/industries/assets/life-sciences-future50.pdf>

6 <https://www.bioindustry.org/news-listing/resilient-uk-biotech-sector-lands-18-billion-investment-in-2023.html>

7 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/board-of-trade-report-life-sciences/life-sciences-whats-next-for-this-top-uk-sector-a-board-of-trade-paper-web-version>



Q2 2023 UK life sciences venture capital funding reached **£1.3 billion**, a **144%** increase quarter-on-quarter and a 38% increase year-on-year. This can be partly attributed to a record **£602 million** fundraise<sup>8</sup>



**UK** retains top spot in Europe receiving **41%** of total venture capital invested into biotechs across the region in 2023<sup>9</sup>



The pharmaceutical industry will invest **£400 million** over the next 5 years<sup>10</sup>

## Industry Size

**1,129 sites** for life sciences companies in London<sup>11</sup>



There is **3.1 million** sq ft of life sciences space under construction across the Golden Triangle<sup>12</sup>



## Other Facts

**20%** of UK MedTech companies turn a consistent profit. Around 60%, make money, but their profits either rely on accounting or have some turnover, but make a loss and don't pay Corporation Tax payments. The remaining 20% or so effectively make no money at all.<sup>13</sup>

8 <https://www.knightfrank.com/research/article/2023-08-23-life-sciences-and-innovation-activity-in-the-uk-q2-2023-insights>

9 <https://www.bioindustry.org/news-listing/resilient-uk-biotech-sector-lands-18-billion-investment-in-2023.html>

10 <https://www.clydeco.com/en/insights/2024/02/the-uk-life-sciences-sector-in-an-election-year>

11 <https://www.grow.london/set-up-in-london/sectors/life-sciences-and-healthcare>

12 <https://www.cushmanwakefield.com/en/united-kingdom/insights/life-sciences-golden-triangle-report>

13 <https://pharmaphorum.com/market-access/too-many-uk-life-sciences-companies-tolerate-commercial-failure-has-change>