

BIA briefing on the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy

Background and Purpose

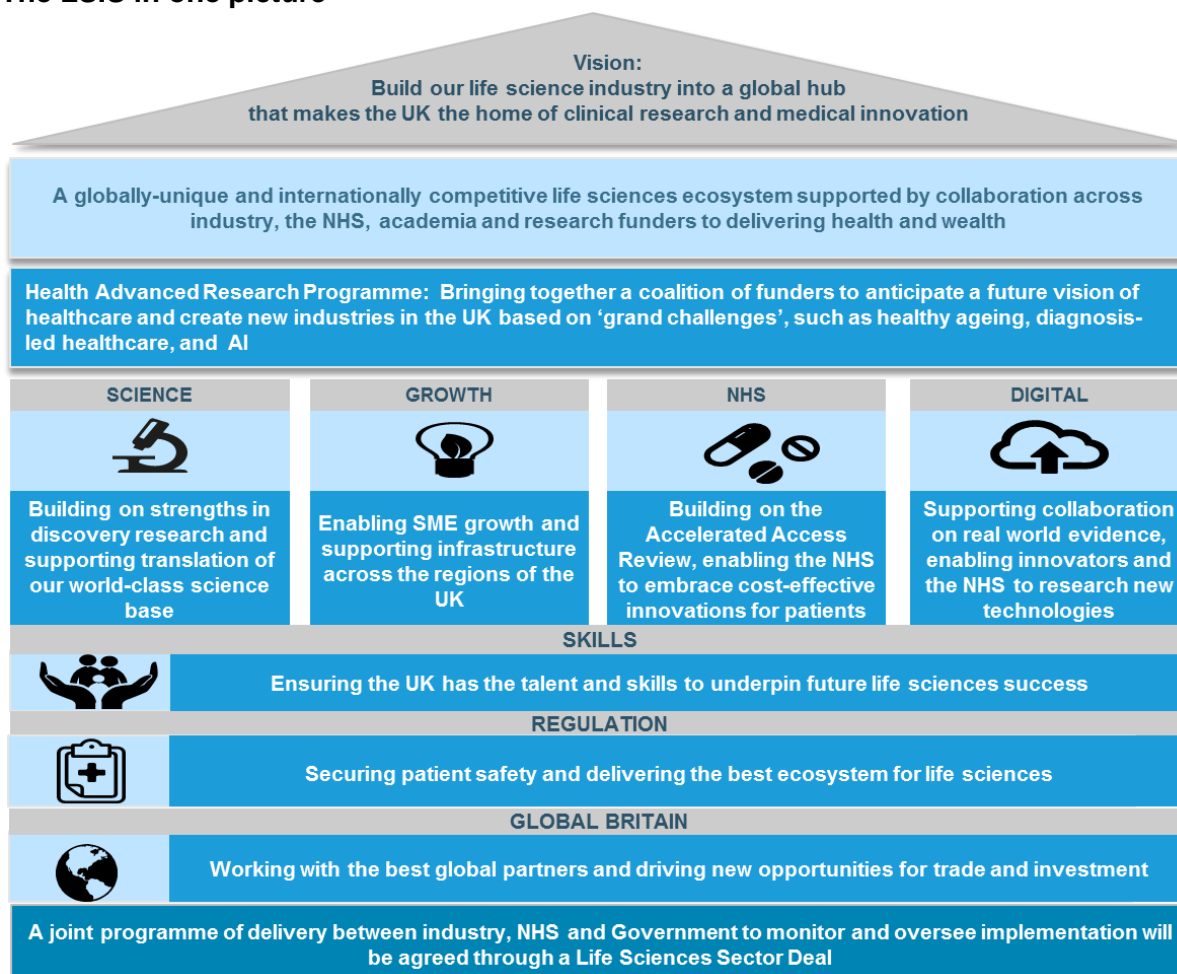
Professor Sir John Bell was commissioned by the UK government to report on opportunities for the UK's life sciences sector in the context of the government's Industrial Strategy.

The intention of the report is to build a consensus of the opportunity across the ecosystem, maintain the profile of the sector with government and international investors and be a key building block towards a life sciences sector deal later in the year.

How was the report developed?

Professor Sir John Bell was commissioned by the government to start work on the LSIS in autumn 2016. A Life Sciences Industrial Strategy Board was established to inform the development of the LSIS which contained relevant company, charity, learned society, trade association, academic and NHS representation. Steve Bates the CEO of the BIA represented the BIA and our members on this Board.

The LSIS in one picture



What does the LSIS cover and what does it recommend?

The strategy aspires to put the UK in a world-leading position to take advantage of the medical trends of the next 20 years through the establishment of the Health Advanced Research Programme (HARP). Taking inspiration from the DARPA model (the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the part of the US Department of Defense responsible for the development of emerging technologies for use by the military), four areas are identified as potential areas of focus for HARP:

- Genomics in medicine
- Creating a platform for developing effective diagnostics for early, asymptomatic chronic disease
- Digitisation and Artificial Intelligence to transform pathology and imaging
- Healthy Ageing – the commercial opportunity

A coalition of funders approach is proposed to tackle such grand challenges with a strategic goal to create 2-3 entirely new industries over the next ten years.

The strategy also puts forward recommendations under five key themes:

- **Science:** reinforce the UK science offer through various actions including improving the UK's clinical trials base to support a 50% increase in the number of clinical trials over the next 5 years.
- **Growth:** support an environment that builds on the UK's current strengths and encourages companies to start and grow. Key recommendations include support for a variety of measures such as Entrepreneurs Relief reform and how R&D tax credits can work better for the sector. In relation to manufacturing, recommendations include accepting in full the recommendations of the Advanced Therapies Manufacturing Plan, optimising the fiscal environment for manufacturing investment and making support and incentives for manufacturing investment and exporting available to business through a single front door.
- **NHS collaboration:** adopt and build on the Accelerated Access Review through a conditional reimbursement process, a forum for early engagement on commercial access agreements and ensure that SMEs can engage effectively with NICE's funding model for technology evaluation. A strategic goal should be that the UK is in the top quartile of comparator countries for speed, adoption and overall uptake of innovative, cost-effective products.
- **Data:** Making the best use of data and digital tools to support research and better patient care by taking forward various actions including creating national registries of therapy-area-specific data across the NHS.
- **Skills:** Ensuring that the sector has access to a pool of talented people to support its aims through a strong skills strategy through various mechanisms such as strengthening support for entrepreneurial training at all levels.

The LSIS also recognises that the sector requires an effective regulatory system and states that in the context of the UK leaving the EU, an approach that ensures co-operation and partnership between the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is in the best interests of patients across the EU and the UK.

Other government announcements made alongside the LSIS

Alongside the publication of the strategy, the government also announced a £146 million funding package as part of the government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

Investments announced were:

- **Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre:** A £13 million competition to establish a new centre, in partnership with industry, that will accelerate the adoption of emerging and novel manufacturing technologies
- **Vaccines Development and Manufacturing Centre:** To develop and manufacture vaccines for clinical trials and prepare for emergency epidemic threats, government is investing £66 million in a new centre of excellence
- **Advanced Therapies Treatment Centre:** A £30 million investment in 3 new sites will help establish a network of centres, based in hospitals, that will transform the UK's ability to develop and deliver cell and gene therapies to a large number of patients
- **Expanding the Cell and Gene Therapy Manufacturing Centre:** Enhancing the UK's offer in the fast-moving field of cell and gene therapy by investing £12 million in doubling the capacity of the Cell and Gene Therapy Centre in Stevenage
- **Research and Development to support innovation at the manufacturing centres:** Through a new collaborative scheme, the government is investing £25 million to support SMEs working in this sector and boost innovation

The first £15 million of the £25 million investment cited above will be made available through a new Innovate UK medicines manufacturing funding competition which opens on 4 September. Full details are available [here](#) and the KTN is also running an event in Manchester on 13 September where interested parties can find out more. Full details available [here](#).

£14 million of funding was also announced to support 11 medical technology research centres to encourage collaboration between the NHS and industry in developing and bringing new technologies to patients through the National Institute for Health Research.

These new investments and funding competitions bring to life the calls the BIA has made, both individually and through collaborations such as the Medicines Manufacturing Industry Partnership, to grow our industry's future. It is great to see SMEs front and centre in these announcements.

BIA's reaction to the LSIS

The overall LSIS chimes and reflects the ambition within the BIA's vision to establish the UK as the third global cluster for life sciences. It is also great to see BIA member companies and organisations cited throughout the LSIS.

BIA CEO and Life Sciences Industrial Strategy Board member Steve Bates said:

It is fantastic to see the publication of a life sciences industrial strategy that can act as a springboard to an early sector deal for the life sciences industry. The BIA has long called for a revived industrial strategy to maintain and build investment into the UK and grow and scale the UK's innovative bioscience companies. We stand ready to continue engagement with government to ensure that this strategy can pave the way for an impactful sector deal that can help deliver the BIA's vision to establish the UK as the third global cluster for life sciences.

However as this is a strategy which synthesises views from a range of contributors across the ecosystem, not every issue is seen from BIA members' perspective, nor given the exact weighting which we would attribute in a document of our own.

Context and next steps

It's important to view the LSIS over a five-year period. The proposals within the LSIS are designed to be thought about in a longer-term context, with both industry and government having responsibilities and commitments over a longer time frame.

It should also be viewed in the context of the government's wider Industrial Strategy agenda, and where proposals may complement those coming forward from other sectors (for example through the review of Artificial Intelligence), they should be developed with common interests in mind.

Much of the BIA's input here has focused on what measures are required to grow and scale businesses. Whilst this is touched upon in the LSIS and there are some welcome recommendations here, HM Treasury's Patient Capital Review is the key driver of policy in this area. The [BIA's input to the Patient Capital Review](#) is well under development and we anticipate government announcements from this Review later in the year at the Autumn Statement.

The government's Industrial Strategy Green Paper named the life sciences as a key strategic sector in the UK that could come forward and develop a sector deal. This strategy document should start the conversation between industry and government as to what both parties can invest in, to achieve the ambitious vision required to reap the benefits in the UK of improved health and a strong economy.