

A guide to the Government for BIA members

September 2021



This is a briefing for BIA members on the Government led by Boris Johnson and key ministerial appointments for our sector following the Cabinet reshuffle on Wednesday 15 September and the subsequent appointment of junior ministers.

The Government currently holds a majority of 82 seats in the House of Commons. The life sciences sector is high on the Government's agenda and Boris Johnson has pledged to make the UK "the leading global hub for life sciences after Brexit". With its strong majority, the Government has the power to enact the policies supportive of the sector in the Conservatives 2019 Manifesto. All in all, this indicates a positive outlook for life sciences during this Government's tenure.

Key Ministers and policymaker profiles

The responsibilities for the life sciences continue to be split between health and business department ministers. This is centrally coordinated by the Office for Life Sciences.

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP – Prime Minister



Boris Johnson led the Conservative Party to a major victory in the 2019 General Election. His manifesto has pledged to make the UK a leading global hub for life sciences, which he calls an industry of the future. He also promises to "unlock long-term capital in pension funds to invest in and commercialise our scientific discoveries" and expand R&D tax credits to include data, something the BIA has long advocated for. The BIA published [analysis](#) of each major party's manifesto before the 2019 General Election.

His first speech as PM in July 2019 praised the UK's "extraordinary bioscience sector" and highlighted the life sciences and academia as strengths of the economy. He mentioned a new gene therapy to treat the most common form of blindness, which, though he didn't name them, has been developed by Gyroscope and Orbit Biomedical, both BIA members. The speech gave several reasons to be hopeful for beneficial policies for the life sciences sector and suggests a strong influence from individuals like George Freeman MP, Sir John Bell and Will Warr (see below).

Johnson spoke at the BIA UK Bioscience Forum in 2013 when Mayor of London and, in 2014, launched MedCity, which aimed to support London and the South East becoming the world's life sciences capital. As an MP he has not made the sector a key focus of his work but has written about gene therapies in his Telegraph column and has backed greater NHS spending. He was the MP for Henley from 2001 to 2008, then the Mayor of London from 2008 to 2016, and has been in Parliament as the MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip, in which GSK and MSD are based, since 2015.

William Warr – Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Health, Social Care, Life Sciences, Technology & AI



Together with Sir John Bell, William wrote the [UK's Life Science Industrial Strategy](#). He has been involved in implementing initiatives launched through the strategy since then and also working for Lynton Crosby's political consultancy, which has been running Boris Johnson's campaigns for many years. He also briefly worked in David Cameron's Policy Implementation Unit in 2015.

His appointment to advise the Prime Minister suggests Johnson believes in the industrial strategy approach of the previous administration and bodes well for the life sciences sector. Warr is close to the BIA – Steve Bates was on John Bell's advisory board for the strategy and attended a BIA roundtable late last year.

Warr was awarded a PhD in 2019 for his work at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences at the University of Oxford. He studied policy at Cambridge University and politics at Durham.

James Phillips – Special Adviser to the Prime Minister and Business Secretary on R&D policy



Phillips joined Government in April 2020 as a special advisor jointly to the Prime Minister and Kwasi Kwarteng, advising specifically on R&D policy. He has a PhD in neuroscience and worked at Janelia, a US lab that has tried to learn about how to fund science research from the successes of ARPA.

In 2018, he [wrote an article](#) in The Telegraph on the future of R&D policy, in which he cites long-term funding to scientists, avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy and high-risk, high-reward projects as rules about how great science arises. He also called for the UK to do more to attract talented young scientists through long-term funding and guaranteed work visas for spouses. The article was raised by Dominic Cummings, and it is thought Phillips was hired in Number 10 by Cummings. Phillips may also have been instrumental in guiding the formation of the Innovation Strategy, launched by BEIS.

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP – Chancellor of the Exchequer



Rishi Sunak was promoted to Chancellor from his role as Chief Secretary to the Treasury immediately after Sajid Javid's surprise resignation during the February 2020 Cabinet reshuffle. Having only been MP since 2015 and on the frontbench since 2018, he has progressed quickly and is relatively unknown.

His appointment was initially seen as a 'power grab' by No 10, with speculation that Johnson and Cummings largely dictated the policies of the Treasury. A Joint Economic Unit of special advisers between No 10 and the Treasury was established, covering areas such as budget policy, in which staff reported to Johnson and Rosenfield. Since, there has been speculation of a rift between No 10 and the Treasury, with Sunak perceived to be making a nem for himself as the next Prime Minister. The tension is thought to be largely down to the different approaches in spending, with Sunak taking a much more financially prudent approach to Johnson.

Before being Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Sunak was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing from 2018 to 2019 and Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy from 2017 to 2018. He has been the MP for Richmond (Yorks) since 2015.

Sunak comes from a business background, having co-founded an investment firm and worked as an analyst for Goldman Sachs as well as various hedge funds. He holds a BA in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford University and an MBA from Stanford University.

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP – Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy



Kwasi Kwarteng was appointed Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on in January 2021 as part of a mini reshuffle, replacing Alok Sharma MP, who was promoted to President of COP26.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary of State, Kwarteng was Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth. As Business Secretary, Kwarteng's department was responsible for co-developing the Government's new Life Sciences Vision which sets to build on the UK's world leading biotech and life sciences sector, harnessing the UK's advantages in genomics, data and research, as well as building on the UK's

world-leading response to the COVID-19 pandemic in vaccines development and manufacturing, therapies and diagnostics. He has supported the BIA and the BIA's idea to address the problems life sciences companies have with accessing institutional finance, adopting the idea of a taskforce to look at this in the Life Sciences Vision and supporting this workstream.

Before entering politics, Kwarteng worked as a columnist for the Daily Telegraph and as a financial analyst at JP Morgan Chase and other investment banks. Kwarteng has an MA in classics and history and a PhD in British history from Cambridge University. He has been MP for Spelthorne since 2010.

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP – Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



Sajid Javid was appointed as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in June 2021 following the resignation of Matt Hancock. Javid was formerly Chancellor in Boris Johnson's first Cabinet but resigned during the reshuffle in February 2020 after Dominic Cummings sacked Javid's advisor and returned to the backbenches. As Health Secretary, Javid insisted that getting the country out of the pandemic was his "most immediate priority". In his first statement in the new role, Javid affirmed his commitment to following the Government's roadmap out of lockdown.

In Theresa May's government, he was appointed Home Secretary in April 2018 following the resignation of Amber Rudd. He had previously also been the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and Financial Secretary and Economic Secretary to the Treasury. As Home Secretary, he lifted the cap on immigration for NHS doctors and nurses. As Business Secretary in the Cameron years, he was reported to not be supportive of the Industrial Strategy and Innovate UK saw its budget decrease.

Javid has BA in Politics and Economics from Exeter University and before entering politics, worked in banking for 18 years. He has been the MP for Bromsgrove since 2010, and has stood for leadership of the Conservative Party in 2019 against Boris Johnson following the resignation of Theresa May.

George Freeman MP – Minister for Science, Research and Innovation (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy



George Freeman MP returned to government as the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. He replaced Amanda Solloway MP who had been in the post for a year. He has also joined the Prime Minister's Science Cabinet Committee. When appointed, he welcomed the "historic opportunity to unleash UK science and innovation for post-COVID recovery". He had last been in government between July 2019 and February 2020 as a transport minister.

Freeman has considerable experience in government working on life sciences, as the first Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Life Sciences at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department of Health from July 2014 until July 2016. He was appointed government adviser on life sciences in July 2011, coordinating the Government's Life Sciences and Innovation, Health and Wealth Strategies (2011), and the Agri-Tech Industrial Strategy (2013). He is also a long-time ally of the BIA, and most recently spoke at our Bioscience Forum on 14 October 2021 and at the Future of Healthcare Investor Forum on 12 October, which is co-organised by the BIA along with the London Stock Exchange and other partners.

Before being elected to Parliament, Freeman had a 15-year career across the life sciences sector, particularly working with hospitals, clinical researchers, patient groups and biomedical research companies to pioneer novel healthcare innovations. He set up 4D Biomedical, a consulting and seed investment advisory business and worked as a biomedical venture capitalist. He has a MA from the University of Cambridge in History and Philosophy of Science, Geography and Earth Sciences, and has been the MP for Mid Norfolk since 2010.

Lord Kamall – Minister for Innovation (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State), Department of Health and Social Care



Syed Kamall was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Innovation at the Department for Health and Social Care after James Bethell left government in the September 2021 reshuffle. He met with the BIA in his first few weeks of taking office to talk about his and industry's priorities.

He served as an MEP for London from 2005 until 2019 and was Leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament between 2013 and 2014. His peerage was announced in December 2020 after a nomination by Boris Johnson, and he joined the Lords in February 2021. This is his first ministerial position.

He is Professor of Politics and International Relations at St Mary's University, Twickenham, and the Academic & Research Director at the Institute of Economic Affairs. He started his career in business management, and

consulted on marketing, strategy, and public affairs. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Liverpool, a Master's degree from the London School of Economics and a PhD from City University.

Maggie Throup MP, Minister for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State), Department for Health and Social Care



Maggie Throup MP was appointed Minister for Public Health in the September reshuffle after Nadhim Zahawi MP was promoted to Education Secretary. His role of Minister for Vaccine Deployment, shared between Department for Health and Social Care and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy was abolished, with COVID-19 vaccine responsibility being added to the portfolio of the Public Health Minister. She was previously in the Chief Whip's office, entering government in 2019.

Throup served on the Health Select Committee and previously as the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Ministerial team at the Department for Health and Social Care. She supports the wider use of diagnostic testing in order to reduce the amount of antibiotics that are wrongly prescribed, and is credited with establishing the All Party Parliamentary Group on Obesity. She has also supported the APPG for Life Sciences, which is run by the BIA, over the years.

Throup has been the MP for Erewash since 2015. Prior to entering politics, Throup worked as a biomedical scientist at the Calderdale Health Authority for several years, becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Science specialising in haematology. She moved into medical diagnostics sales and marketing with a pharmaceutical company before setting up her own consultancy business. She holds a degree in Biology from the University of Manchester.

Ministerial and policy maker positions in the new Government relevant to the life sciences sector

Please note that this guide only covers ministers and responsibilities relevant to the life sciences.

Department	Position	Holder	Relevant responsibility	Holder in previous government
Number 10	Prime Minister	Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP		Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
	Prime Minister's Chief of Staff	Dan Rosenfield	Senior aide to the Prime Minister	Dominic Cummings
	PPS to the Prime Minister	Andrew Griffith MP and Sarah Dines MP		Alex Burghart MP and Trudy Harrison MP
	Director of No10 Policy Unit	Munira Mirza	Adviser to the Prime Minister on overall government policy	Munira Mirza
	Special Adviser to Prime Minister and Business Secretary	James Phillips	R&D Policy	
	Special Adviser to the Prime Minister: Health and Social Care, Life Sciences and Technology	Will Warr	Adviser on Life Sciences	Will Warr
Cabinet Office	Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Minister for the Cabinet Office	Rt Hon Stephen Barclay	Leading public services recovery from COVID-19, leading cross-government and public sector transformation and efficiency, the GREAT campaign	Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
	PPS to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Jane Hunt MP and Ian Levy MP		Jane Hunt MP and Ian Levy MP
HM Treasury	Chancellor of the Exchequer	Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP		Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
	Joint Economic Unit between No10 and HMT	Liam Booth-Smith, Michael Webb,	Co-ordinating economic policy between Number 10 and the Treasury; budget policy; media and comms	

	(established after the Feb 2020 reshuffle)	Douglas McNeill, Nerissa Chesterfield, Cass Horowitz, Rupert Yorke, Lisa Lovering, James Nation, Olivia Oates		
	PPS to the Chancellor	Claire Coutinho MP		Claire Coutinho MP
	PPS to the Ministerial Team	Craig Williams MP		Craig Williams MP
	Chief Secretary to the Treasury	Simon Clarke MP	Public expenditure including spending review; capital investment; infrastructure spending; tax credits	Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP
	Financial Secretary	Rt Hon Lucy Frazer QC MP	Strategic oversight of tax policy and customs, including direct, indirect, business, property and personal taxation; corporate and small business taxation; European and international tax issues	Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP
	Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury	Helen Whately MP	UK growth and productivity, regional devolution and Ox-Cam Arc; R&D and science policy; skills, migration and apprenticeship levy; digital; promoting the UK as a destination for FD; Patient Capital Review implementation	Kemi Badenoch MP
	Economic Secretary to the Treasury and City Minister	John Glen MP	Financial conduct, including relationship with the FCA; EU exit financial services; Bank lending and access to finance	John Glen MP
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)	Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP		Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP

	Special Advisor to the Business Secretary	Celia McSwaine	Policy and media	Celia McSwaine
	Special Advisor to the Business Secretary	Cameron Brown	Policy and media	Cameron Brown
	PPS to the Business Secretary	Mark Fletcher MP		Jo Gideon MP
	PPS to the Ministerial Team	Felicity Buchan MP		Mark Fletcher MP
	Minister of State	Rt Hon Greg Hands MP		
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Business and Industry)	Lee Rowley MP	Vaccine Taskforce; national security and investment; sector lead for life sciences	Nadhim Zahawi MP
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Science, Research, and Innovation)	George Freeman MP	Science; research; innovation; industrial strategy delivery; sector lead for intellectual property, maritime, space and technology	Amanda Solloway MP
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Business, Energy and Corporate Responsibility)	Lord Callanan	Lords lead on all BEIS issues; corporate governance; better regulation and regulatory reform	Lord Callanan
Department of Health and Social Care	Secretary of State for Health and Social Care	Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP		Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
	Special Adviser to the Health Secretary	Samuel Coates	Advising the Health Secretary across his brief	Samuel Coates
	Special Adviser to the Health Secretary	Damon Poole	Media Adviser	Damon Poole
	Special Adviser to the Health Secretary	Allan Nixon	Parliamentary liaison	Allan Nixon
	PPS to the Health Secretary	Saqib Bhatti MP		Steve Double MP

	PPS to the Ministerial Team	Natalie Elphicke MP		Virginia Crosbie MP
	Minister of State (Minister for Health)	Edward Argar MP	COVID-19: NHS resilience and supply (ventilators); EU future relationship and trade; NHS operational performance	Edward Argar MP
	Minister of State (Minister for Care)	Gillian Keegan MP	COVID-19: NHS workforce and test and trace; adult social care; health/care integration; workforce; dementia, disabilities and long-term conditions	Helen Whately MP
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care)	Maggie Throup MP	COVID-19: supply (PPE) and vaccine deployment; health improvement; health inequalities; prevention; primary care; major diseases	Jo Churchill MP
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Innovation)	Lord Kamall	COVID-19: supply (medicines and testing), treatments and vaccines; life sciences; medicines; research; rare diseases; anti-microbial resistance; data and technology; global health security	Lord Bethell of Romford
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	Maria Caulfield MP		
Department for International Trade	Secretary of State for International Trade	Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP		Rt Hon Liz Truss MP
	Special Advisor to the Trade Secretary	Will Holloway and Will Sweet	Policy and Comms	Adam Jones, Sophie Jarvis, Jamie Hope
	PPS to the Trade Secretary	Jack Brereton MP and Peter Gibson MP		David Duguid MP
	Minister of State for Trade Policy	Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP	Export controls; FTAs with USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan; engagement with WTO; UK tariff policy	Greg Hands MP

	Minister of State (Minister for Investment, jointly with Department for International Trade)	Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt	Investment strategy; promoting investment across all sectors; promoting FDI and portfolio investment in the UK	Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt
Department for Education	Secretary of State for Education	Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP		Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
	Special Advisor to the Education Secretary	Tom Kennedy	Policy and Comms	Iain Mansfield, Angus Walker
	Minister of State for Universities	Michelle Donelan MP	Strategy for post-16 education; universities and higher education reform ('Science and Universities' brief now split between BEIS and DfE)	Michelle Donelan MP
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills)	Alex Burghart MP	Strategy for post-16 education; technical; apprenticeships and traineeships, technical education; further education workforce	Gillian Keegan MP

About the BIA

The BIA is the trade association for innovative life sciences in the UK. Our goal is to secure the UK's position as a global hub and as the best location for innovative research and commercialisation, enabling our world-leading research base to deliver healthcare solutions that can truly make a difference to people's lives. We are full members of the UK Life Science Council and ensure our members participate fully in UK government consultations and partnership working. In 2020 we worked particularly closely with the UK Government COVID-19 Vaccines Taskforce.

Our members include:

- Start-ups, biotechnology and innovative life science companies
- Pharmaceutical and technological companies
- Universities, research centres, tech transfer offices, incubators and accelerators
- A wide range of life science service providers: investors, lawyers, IP consultants, IR agencies

We promote an ecosystem that enables innovative life science companies to start and grow successfully and sustainably.

For any further information on the contents of this submission please contact Dr Martin Turner, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, by emailing mturner@bioindustry.org