

Now More Than Ever :

Seizing the opportunity to make the UK a world leader in the life sciences sector

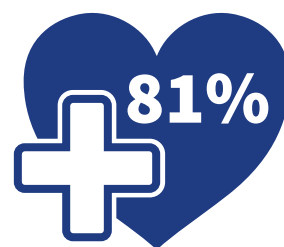


In 2017, the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy set out an ambitious future for the sector, which the UK government responded to with the publication of the Life Sciences Sector Deal and its long-awaited response to the Accelerated Access Review (AAR). However, similar policies, published by previous governments, have failed to deliver lasting change. Polling of NHS staff, commissioned by the BIA, explains why this is the case.

Polling commissioned by the BIA shows that despite successive government policies, NHS staff are generally unaware of the challenges around innovation in the NHS and that they have little to no awareness of previous initiatives aimed at addressing these challenges and improving the uptake of new treatments.

Healthcare professionals are generally not aware of the innovation challenges facing the NHS:

Government data shows that the NHS is below average in terms of adopting innovative new treatments compared to healthcare systems in other economically-developed countries¹. However, 81% of NHS staff rate the NHS as an average or better than average adopter of innovation compared to alternative health care systems in economically comparable countries.



of NHS staff rate the NHS as an average or better than average adopter of innovation.

NHS staff have little to no awareness of previous initiatives aimed at increasing the adoption and diffusion of new technologies and treatments:

46% of NHS staff are not aware of initiatives recommended in the 2011 Life Sciences Strategy or the Innovation, Health and Wealth report.²

only
30%
are aware of
Academic Health
Science Networks.

only
13%
are aware of
NHS Innovation
Challenge Prize.

only
5%
are aware of
Test Bed
programme.

only
5%
are aware of
the Innovations
Scorecard.

only
20%
of NHS staff are aware
of the Early Access to
Medicines Scheme, which
was introduced in the 2011
Life Sciences Strategy.



82%
of NHS staff are not aware of
either Innovation, Health and
Wealth or the AAR.



only
29%
of C-level NHS staff are
aware of Innovation,
Health and Wealth.



only
36%
of C-level NHS
staff are aware
of the AAR.

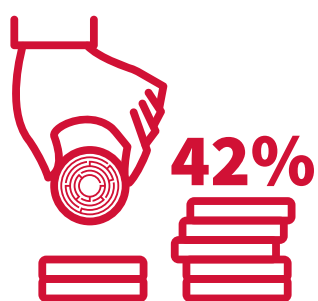
¹ Office for Life Sciences (April, 2017) Life Science Competitiveness Indicators, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/606651/life-science-competitiveness-indicators-report-2017.pdf

² Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Office for Life Sciences (2011), Strategy for UK Life Sciences, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-life-sciences-strategy>. Department of Health (2011), Innovation, Health and Wealth, Accelerating Adoption and Diffusion in the NHS, http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107013731/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_131299.

Barriers to innovation:



of NHS staff identify affordability as one of the greatest barriers to the adoption of innovation in the NHS.



of NHS staff believe complex commissioning processes hinder the adoption of innovation in their part of the NHS.



of NHS staff consider the lack of evidence of better outcomes to be an important barrier to the adoption of innovation.


Incentives for innovation:



of NHS staff identify increased cost-effectiveness as an important incentive for the adoption of innovation.



of NHS staff believe that the funding direction for NICE approved medicines acts an important incentive to encourage the adoption of innovation.



As the UK prepares to withdraw from the European Union, 2018 will be a pivotal year for the life sciences sector. With the scale of the challenges facing the sector, now more than ever policymakers need to be bolder than before. In particular, government needs to act in three key areas:

Cross-sectoral buy-in

- The Office for Life Sciences should be awarded greater support and resource
- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) should exercise greater influence over all aspects of life sciences policy

Ministerial buy-in

- The Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for BEIS should guarantee their attendance at biannual Ministerial Industry Strategy Group Meetings (or evolutions of this forum into a new format e.g. a Life Sciences Council)
- Both Ministers should be held to account through the development of a series of measurable objectives on the use of innovation

NHS buy-in and implementation

- Both NHS England and NHS Improvement need to appoint an accountable board member for delivering improved rates of innovation and importantly, implementing the AAR
- Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group leaders should be held to account through national frameworks for uptake

For more detail on the BIA polling please email Policy and Public Affairs Manager,
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