



Annual report 2025-2026

Introduction

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Life Sciences was relaunched in October 2024 to strengthen Parliament's understanding of the UK's life sciences sector and support an evidence-led policy environment that enables research, innovation and economic growth.

Over the past year, the Group has delivered a renewed programme of activity grounded in cross-party engagement, expert evidence and timely parliamentary updates. This report summarises the APPG's work, including four major meetings and events, and the launch of a new weekly life sciences newsletter for MPs and Peers.

The APPG is chaired by Kit Malthouse MP, with support from Officers Pippa Heylings MP, Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, and Sadik Al-Hassan MP. The BIA provides the Secretariat in collaboration with the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), with support from ABPI, AMS, BHF and other partners across the sector.

1. Inaugural General Meeting – Relaunch of the APPG

15 October 2024 | Portcullis House

The APPG formally relaunched at its Inaugural General Meeting, with strong cross-party engagement from MPs and Peers representing constituencies and committees central to the sector. Members agreed the Group's purpose, themes and initial priorities, focusing on:

- Research in the NHS
- Access to medicines
- Commercialisation of research

Members also endorsed a new workplan including proactive parliamentary engagement, coordinated briefings ahead of key debates, and the introduction of a fortnightly newsletter (later expanded to a weekly update). The meeting set the strategic direction for the year, identifying clinical trials, data access and investment conditions as priority areas for early scrutiny.

2. Parliamentary Reception – Public Relaunch of the APPG

February 2025 | House of Commons

The APPG held its inaugural parliamentary reception, attracting around **200 stakeholders** and **20 parliamentarians** from across both Houses.

Keynotes from **APPG Chair Kit Malthouse MP** and **Professor Sir Chris Whitty**, Chief Medical Officer, emphasised the UK's global leadership in life sciences and the sector's importance to public health, NHS productivity and economic growth.

Attendees engaged with interactive showcases from leading innovators and research charities, including demonstrations of genomics, diagnostics and data-driven technologies. The event significantly broadened awareness of the APPG's mission and built new links between parliamentarians and the UK life sciences ecosystem.

3. Roundtable on the Life Sciences Sector Plan

29 April 2025 | Portcullis House

The APPG convened its first thematic roundtable, bringing together senior voices from industry, academia, medical research charities and government to share evidence on priorities for the upcoming **Life Sciences Sector Plan**.

Chaired by Kit Malthouse MP, the session featured contributions from:

- Roz Campion, Director, Office for Life Sciences
- Joe Edwards, ABPI
- Melissa Strange, EnteroBiotix / BIA FTAC
- Professor Eoin McKinney, University of Cambridge
- Dr Owen Jackson, Cancer Research UK

Discussion focused on the need for:

- clear accountability and metrics in the Sector Plan;
- improvements to clinical trial performance and data access;
- strengthening support for SMEs and scale-ups;
- coordinated national leadership across industry, NHS, academia and charities.

4. Roundtable on Embedding Clinical Research in the NHS

June 2025 | House of Commons

Following publication of the 10-Year Health Plan, the APPG hosted a cross-sector roundtable examining how to embed clinical research as core NHS infrastructure.

Contributors included:

- **Professor Lucy Chappell**, Chief Scientific Adviser, DHSC
- **Dr Sonya Babu-Narayan**, British Heart Foundation
- **Dr Kam Pooni**, CEO, Glyconics

The discussion underscored:

- the link between research-active NHS sites and better patient outcomes;
- the urgent need for faster, more accessible data through the Health Data Research Service;
- the importance of research-skilled workforce capacity;
- barriers facing SMEs when trying to work with and sell into the NHS;
- the need for parliamentarians to support regulatory and legislative reforms to deliver the Plan's ambitions.

Consensus emerged around elevating clinical research from “important but not urgent” to a core NHS function essential for innovation, equity and growth.

The APPG's Weekly Parliamentary Newsletter

In line with the workplan agreed at the IGM, the APPG launched a weekly Monday-morning newsletter to provide MPs and Peers with updates on:

- major life sciences news and sector developments;
- upcoming parliamentary business relevant to science, health and innovation;
- key policy consultations and announcements;

- recent industry deals and research breakthroughs.

The newsletter has become a high-value resource for parliamentarians preparing for debates, constituency work and Select Committee duties, and has helped broaden engagement beyond the formal membership of the APPG.

Conclusion and Forward Look

In its first year following relaunch, the APPG for Life Sciences has successfully re-established itself as a key forum in Parliament for evidence-based discussion on the future of UK life sciences. The Group has:

- convened over 250 stakeholders across four major meetings and events;
- strengthened parliamentary understanding of the sector's challenges and opportunities;
- contributed to debates on clinical trials, NHS data, R&D investment and innovation adoption;
- expanded its reach through a new weekly parliamentary briefing.

Over the next year, the Group will continue its programme of roundtables, briefings and parliamentary engagement, with a renewed focus on clinical trials, data reform, scaling UK innovation, and ensuring the Life Sciences Sector Plan delivers for patients, researchers and the economy.