

The biotech manifesto

The life sciences sector delivers life-saving and life-enhancing medicines for patients, provides highly skilled jobs and apprenticeships for people across the country and contributes billions of pounds to the UK economy.

Over 250,000 people are employed by the sector, two thirds of them outside London and the South East, and every year over £30 billion is added to the UK's GDP by life sciences companies.

We are committed to helping the next government achieve our shared goals of building a healthier and more prosperous country for patients, industry and the UK economy.

To achieve these shared goals, we are calling on the next Government to:

1. Commit to maintaining and increasing public and private investment in R&D

R&D is the beating heart of the biotech sector. Without it, none of the sector's contributions to patients and the UK economy would be possible. Delivering and building on the industrial strategy will be key to maintaining the UK's unique R&D advantage.

- The cross-party target to achieve R&D representing 2.4% of GDP by 2027 (and 3% in the long-term) should be continued, and a long-term investment plan published in 2020 to give confidence to the sector to make R&D investment commitments in the UK.
- The Biomedical Catalyst enables SMEs to de-risk innovative science, accelerate access to new medicines for patients and leverage £5 of private investment for every £1 from the Government. Re-filling the Biomedical Catalyst will ensure that SMEs thrive – creating good jobs across the country and securing new treatments for patients.
- Working with the financial sector and British Business Bank, the next Government should encourage pension schemes to invest more in the UK's innovative young businesses to support their growth and secure greater retirement incomes for everyone.





2. Maintain world class medicines regulation in a post-Brexit UK

The UK's membership of the EU ensures earlier access to medicines for patients, assures the UK's global standing in delivering clinical trials and ensures the highest levels of safety and pharmacovigilance. Whatever happens, the UK's future relationship with the EU must not impede the delivery of these priorities.

- The Government should seek the closest possible alignment between UK and EU on medicines and medical devices regulations, while assisting the MHRA to develop existing national flexibilities to modernise clinical trials to enable rapid access to innovative new treatments for patients in the UK.
- Continued participation in and cooperation with the EU pharmaceutical regulatory regimes, bodies and networks will help safeguard the UK as a key global launch location for new therapies securing jobs and investment in UK life sciences, while minimising duplicative red tape.

3. Deliver rapid patient access to medicines

As science advances, medicines are becoming available that can transform the lives of patients. Unfortunately, the way medicines are assessed for use in the NHS does not always take into account how much value they bring to patients' lives, slowing and blocking access.

- The assessment of medicines should not prioritise cost-effectiveness over a more holistic understanding of real-world value and the wider impact on patients' ability to full, active and fulfilling lives.
- Flexibility should be built into the appraisal system so that it does not act as an undue barrier to patient access to medicines, particularly recognising the data limitations for rare diseases.
- NHS bodies and the Government should continue to work with companies to reach agreements that ensure patients' access to medicines.

