

Notes:

Labour's Life Sciences Sector Plan, Summary of Actions:

Labour's Industrial Strategy
1. Bolster the Life Sciences Council and ensure its decisions are acted upon by having it report directly into the Industrial Strategy Council.
2. Strengthen the Office for Life Sciences, so that it is politically empowered to truly drive delivery across government.
3. Place life sciences and innovation directly under the Health Secretary's ministerial responsibilities, representing a key priority for the department of Health, alongside the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.
Providing stability and certainty for innovation by taking a long-term approach to public R&D funding
1. Create a more certain funding environment and a more streamlined funding process, to end Tory short-termism and attract long-term investment. We will set 10-year budgets for key R&D institutions such as UKRI.
2. Cut red tape and introduce a system of earned trust in place of retrospective and repetitive reporting and audit by Government departments and UKRI.
3. Increase the number of spinouts coming out of universities, and structure the innovation funding system to ensure more of them successfully scale-up.
Harnessing data to improve services for patients and power cutting-edge medical research
1. Deliver on work underway to create linked Secure Data Environments.
2. Ensure proper federation of data sets, with a single access point for researchers to use data from all our genomic resources (UK Biobank, OFH, GEL, NIHR Bioresource)
3. Seize the opportunity NHS Federated data platform offers, using this platform to improve the way we use patient data in the NHS, in a safe and secure way, as a means to deliver better treatment and care.

4. Drive inter-operability between digital systems in the NHS and in care from the bottom-up, by making the NHS App a one-stop shop for health information.

5. Ensure that there is a senior official accountable for delivery across organisations within DHSC, who will report to the Life Sciences Council on progress each time it meets.

Increasing access to finance

1. Undertake a broader in-government pensions review.

2. Enable greater consolidation across all pension and retirement saving schemes (DB, DC, and LGPS) For DC schemes, Labour will give The Pensions Regulator (TPR) new powers to bring about consolidation where schemes fail to offer sufficient value for their members

3. Empower the British Business Bank (BBB) with a more ambitious remit: A future Labour government will look to empower the BBB with a more ambitious remit focused on providing growth capital, enabling regional development, and streamlining support offerings for SMEs.

4. Establish a British 'Tibi' scheme. Labour will set up an opt-in scheme for DC funds to invest a proportion of their assets into UK growth assets – split between VC and small cap growth equity, and infrastructure investment.

Improving the business environment

1. Maintain the current structure of R&D tax credits over the next parliament, while cracking down on fraudulent claims and those made in error.

2. Evaluate the impact of the R&D tax credit scheme on a sector-by-sector basis, starting with the Life Sciences industry.

3. Labour is committed to maintaining the patent box regime and protecting the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCT).

Modernising and unblocking the regulatory regime

1. Create a Regulatory Innovation Office (RIO) to hold regulators accountable for driving innovation where appropriate and for delays that are holding back innovation. The RIO will bring together the Regulation Executive and the secretariat for the Regulatory Horizons Council and will:

2. Set and monitor targets for regulatory approval timelines, benchmarked against international comparators.

3. Provide strategic steers for what activity regulators should be prioritising, drawing on priorities from Labour's industrial strategy.

4. Support a beefed-up Regulatory Horizons Council, with a new requirement for government to respond to its reports within a set time period.

Planning reform to support the life sciences industry

1. Bring laboratory clusters within the scope of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Regime in England.

2. Create new National Development Management Policies tilting the scales in favour of new lab space in our planning system for England.

Skills

1. Reform the Apprenticeships Levy into a 'Growth and Skills Levy' so it can be used on the greater range of training courses that businesses tell us they need, so workers can gain new skills.

2. Commit to long-term workforce planning across the NHS and social care will review training and look at creating new types of health and care professionals that draw on a diverse skills mix, including the skills staff need to support clinical trials and recruit patients.

Ensuring the NHS is supporting innovation to improve health outcomes

1. Develop a comprehensive innovation and adoption strategy in England, working with industry, patients and ICSs. Our strategy will align to the existing Life Sciences Vision and focus the system on harnessing innovation to improve outcomes.

2. Labour also recognises that as a universal, single payer system serving a diverse population, the NHS has the potential to lead the world in clinical trials to develop new life saving treatments and technologies.

3. Speed up recruitment: by making sure that patients who are interested in participating in research can be reached quickly and easily.

4. Give more people the chance to participate: wherever they live in Britain, rather than having research opportunities concentrated on where the big centres are, by

identifying patients who would benefit through NHS data and working with devolved nations so patients can access clinical trials regardless of which NHS they reside in.

5. Improve the diversity of people who participate: so we test treatments on populations that better reflect the people who need them.

IP/ Trade

1. Publish a trade strategy which sets out clear priorities for vital growth sectors like life sciences.

2. Give the Board of Trade a proper purpose as an independent advisory agency, accountable to the Secretary of State, advising on the impacts of regulation on trade and horizon scanning for opportunities

3. Ensure reciprocal levels of IP protection in countries with which the UK trades while maintaining our continued support of the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

4. Use bilateral and multilateral negotiations as an opportunity to remove redundant or duplicative requirements UK medicines face when accessing markets overseas, and maximise opportunities presented by our high regulatory standards to minimise regulatory trade barriers.