

# Welcome

## Life Sciences Skills Strategy Board

# Attendees / Apologies



## Attendees

Viggo Birch	Novo Nordisk
Judy Britton	BIS
Lesley Earl	Huntingdon Life Sciences
Lesley Galloway	Ethical Medicines Industry Group
Richard Hobbs	Oxford University
John Holton	Cogent SSC
Andrew Jack	Financial Times
Allison Jaynes-Ellis	ABPI
Trevor Jones	Merlin Bioscience
Oliver Lofink	Management Engineers
Brian Murphy	Cogent SSC
Neil Poulter	Imperial College
James Sawyer	Prism Bioscience
Fran Sivers	Primary Care Cardiovascular Society
Beck Smith	University of Dundee
Oliver Wells	ABHI
Joanna Woolf	Cogent SSC
Neil Weir	UCB

## Apologies from Members

Bob Armitage	Merck
Dame Carol Black	Department for Work & Pensions
David Brennan	Astra Zeneca
Aisling Burnand	Cancer Research UK
William Castell	Wellcome
Sally Davies	Department for Health
Nigel Gaymond	BioIndustry Association
Dennis Gillings	Quintiles
Susan Haird	UKTI
Ian Lyne	BBSRC
Haruo Naito	Eisai
Ian Read	Pfizer



# UK declines as an investment location

## CBI warn future UK investment at risk 18<sup>th</sup> April



Launching a research report on the UK as an investment location, CBI says the government had made a good start in the Budget and in its plan for growth, but now needed to “completely transform” the investment landscape.

Lack of trained and skills workforce is a pressing issue.

# Investment drivers

## Drivers for investment:

When asked about the upsides of investing in the UK, business leaders cited the following as important drivers:

- the English language, which makes the UK attractive to overseas businesses
- cultural aspects and quality of life, which can be important in attracting international headquarters to serve the European market
- the rule of law, including political stability and the ease of doing business
- *science base, particularly in research and development, and innovation, highlighting that four of the world's top ten universities are located in the UK*

# Investment barriers

## Barriers to investment:

When asked about the obstacles to investing, among the factors cited by business leaders were:

- the lack of long-term predictability and certainty. Businesses need to plan ahead so need confidence that incentives will not suddenly disappear
- the impact of regulation, particularly employment legislation around tribunals, dismissal periods and strike activity
- *skills shortages in the UK, particularly in science, technology and maths*

# Government Growth Agenda

- Vince Cable, business secretary, said the UK's inward investment regime remained among the most welcoming in the world.

“However, we must not be complacent. This is why we have placed trade and investment at the heart of the government's growth agenda.”



# LSSB – leadership for action *cogent* | Skills for Science Based Industries

## Leadership for the Skills Action Plan

- Government has said policy should ensure that skills not a bottleneck to growth
- Cogent, in response, has established the Life Sciences Skills Strategy Board to provide leadership on skills
- Cogent has also brought together employers/ educators to form the Life Sciences Advisory Council
- They will develop and deliver solutions to the skills challenges facing the sector
- Together the Board and Council will develop 'one voice' on skills for life science employers

