



## INFORMATION NOTE

The Prime Minister (PM) has asked for a piece of work, championed and led by the Rt. Hon David Willetts, Minister of State for Universities and Science, with Lord Howe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality in the Department for Health, with the aim of identifying potential areas for further development in **health related** aspects of the Life Sciences sector. This is to ensure that the UK maintains and builds on its world leading position for Life Sciences.

This work will be co-ordinated across government by a project team drawing in the Department of Health (DH), HM Treasury (HMT) and Department for Business Innovation and Skills, led by Office for Life Sciences (OLS). We anticipate that the PM will make reference to this in a speech before the end of the calendar year.

This piece of work will be focussed on supporting the **UK's long-term position** in the life sciences industry. Therefore whilst some specific areas for action might commence during the first year, due to the forward looking nature of this work, many of the ideas will take several years to set up and implement. The work is **complementary** to existing initiatives such the Healthcare and Life Sciences **Plan for Growth**.

The scope of this work [appended below] encompasses **pharmaceuticals, medical biotechnology and medical technology**, but it will also include consideration of the emerging '**nutraceutical**' <sup>1</sup>**market**. Increasingly these sub-sectors are leveraging expertise from the business services sectors and so the work may also include aspects of ICT and other business services as well as some emerging technologies i.e. synthetic biology and regenerative medicine.

In order to support the evidence gathering, OLS will engage with stakeholder groups using a combination of one-to-one meetings; round tables and correspondence throughout this period. **George Freeman** MP (Life Sciences Adviser to David Willetts) and **Chris Brinsmead** (independent Life Sciences Business Adviser) are supporting the engagement process and have also established a focus-group comprising individuals at the front-line of life sciences activities to enable us to get a 360 degree view of the sector now and for the future.

We are committed to using existing stakeholder material wherever possible, including your suggestions for the Plan for Growth. The purpose of this exercise is to further develop the existing body of evidence, and reference checking it with front-line life science researchers and other practitioners. Due to time constraints, we will not be able to involve all stakeholders directly. We will, however, ensure that you are kept informed of progress.

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<sup>1</sup> A nutraceutical is any substance that is a food or a part of a food and provides medical or health benefits, including the prevention and treatment of disease.

## LIFE SCIENCES AUTUMN PACKAGE – OBJECTIVES, ANALYSIS AND SCOPE

### BACKGROUND

Building on the recent initiatives in the life sciences arena such as the Plan for Growth and the seminar on genomics and life sciences, the Prime Minister has requested a programme of work that sets out the Government's strategic response to the challenges and opportunities of a changing life sciences sector. The aim is to ensure that the UK maintains and builds on its world leading position for life sciences. The work will be taken forward by a cross-government project team, **overseen by a steering group of senior Whitehall officials and ultimately David Willetts and Lord Howe**. We anticipate that the PM will make reference to this in a speech before the end of the calendar year.

### ANALYSIS

#### *Problem Statement*

- **The R&D business model in life sciences is changing, creating strategic challenges and opportunities for UK growth**

#### *Objective*

To maintain and build UK's world-leading position globally for life sciences, such that:

- **The UK remains an attractive location for investment now and in the future**
- **UK companies are best positioned for global opportunities from increasing global investment in healthcare**

#### *Hypotheses*

- **The UK has existing areas of competitive advantage that should be strengthened, and a leading position in emerging areas that should be proactively developed**
- **Government has a role to play in addressing market failures at different points of the R&D and commercialisation life cycle**

#### *Scope*

- **What will this cover?**  
**The focus of this programme of work is on the health related aspects of the life sciences sector.** In line with previous work undertaken by the Office of Life Sciences, this is defined as comprising of **pharmaceuticals, medical biotechnology and medical technology**, but it will also include consideration of the emerging '**nutraceutical**' market. Increasingly these sub-sectors are leveraging expertise from the business services sectors and so may also include aspects of ICT and other business services as well as some emerging technologies i.e. synthetic biology and regenerative medicine. This project will **not** look at medical products for veterinary use, industrial biotechnology (application of biotechnology to chemicals, agriculture etc) or social care aspects of the healthcare sectors.
- **Who are we targeting?**  
A global business audience, alongside academics, charities, government and the NHS.
- **How is this different to the Healthcare and Life Sciences Plan for Growth?**  
The Plan for Growth announced specific actions to address identified barriers to growth. Delivery of those actions should all have started within one year but many of them will take several years to come into full effect. The present work will give strategic direction to support the UK's long-term position in the life sciences industry.