

# ABPI manifesto for **investment,** **health and growth**

Making the UK the best place in the world to research, develop and use the medicines and vaccines of the future

January 2024



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# Summary



The innovative pharmaceutical industry has the potential to drive the health and wealth of the UK. It already makes a significant contribution to UK research and development (R&D) investment, worth around £5 billion in 2020.<sup>1</sup> The medicines and vaccines our industry develops are transformative for public health, patients and the NHS.

This manifesto sets out the ABPI's vision for how the UK can overtake its global competitors. Implementing these proposals will create a virtuous cycle, where investment in medicines and research accelerates future waves of innovation and attracts an increased UK share of global R&D.

Delivering these proposals requires a true partnership between industry and government, centred on the principles of collaboration, transparency of delivery, and a unified approach to health and growth.



Our three key asks of the next government are:

**Ask 1 Strengthen the development, regulation and adoption journey for new medicines and vaccines, making the UK a beacon for global research investment.**

- create a joined-up life sciences ecosystem with the resources and capacity to deliver rapid approvals, leading to rapid adoption and use of medicines by the NHS
- set a goal for the UK to have the highest level of public R&D investment in the G7
- reverse the decline in industry clinical trials in the UK
- establish a world leading, health data-enabled patient recruitment service for clinical trials
- create a seamless pathway between genetic testing, personalised medicines access, and clinical trials
- ensure that the UK's health data offer is globally competitive

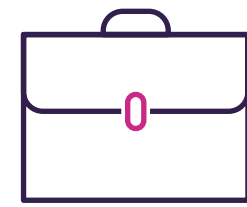
**Ask 2 Work with industry as a partner to drive better health, investing in medicines and vaccines to improve prevention and health equity and deliver a sustainable NHS.**

- ensure delivery of key commitments in the Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing, Access, and Growth (VPAG)<sup>2</sup>
- value the long-term benefits of medicines appropriately
- reform the Innovative Medicines Fund in England so that it works for patients
- prepare the ground for a new generation of innovative vaccines and support vaccine access and uptake
- provide dedicated central funding for the National Action Plan to protect the world from the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

**Ask 3 Equip industry with the tools to drive UK economic growth, safeguarding intellectual property, removing trade barriers and incentivising advanced medicines manufacturing and skills development.**

- strengthen global trade in life sciences outputs at the World Trade Organization (WTO) by continuing to advocate for international IP frameworks
- use the full range of mechanisms in its trade policy toolkit to promote UK life science exports as a key growth sector
- deliver a truly cross-departmental approach to education and skills, with regular collaboration with businesses to address current and future skills need
- make the UK a world leader in advanced and sustainable medicines manufacturing by delivering a long-term programme of capital grants and innovation funding
- deliver stability for prospective investors by providing an internationally competitive tax and fiscal incentives environment for R&D and capital investment

# The UK's pharmaceutical industry contributes:



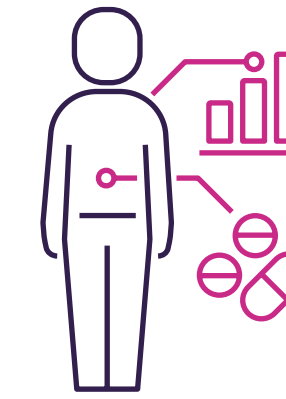
126,000 jobs across the UK<sup>3</sup>



5,500 jobs across Scotland



£1.6bn value added in Scotland



Early access to innovative treatments for<sup>7</sup> 42,088 people recruited to industry clinical trials in 2022/23



£17.6bn in direct GVA and £45bn in R&D spillovers<sup>4</sup>



£1 in every £5 invested by the private sector in UK R&D

£355m of revenue and £28.6m of cost savings for the NHS in England through industry clinical trials in 2018/19<sup>8</sup>



4,300 jobs across Northern Ireland



£276m value added in Northern Ireland



4,800 jobs across Wales



£692m value added in Wales



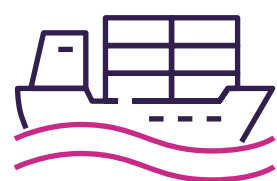
111,400 jobs across England



£15bn value added in England



More than 3,000 sites in the UK<sup>5</sup>



£25.4bn in exports<sup>6</sup>

PIPELINE



## What medicines are in the pipeline for the UK?

Medicines and vaccines can also play an important role by improving patient outcomes, which help them to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. Right now the pipeline is incredibly exciting:



**68%** of medicines in the UK's pipeline target NHS England, long-term plan priority areas and/or Life Sciences Vision healthcare missions<sup>9</sup>



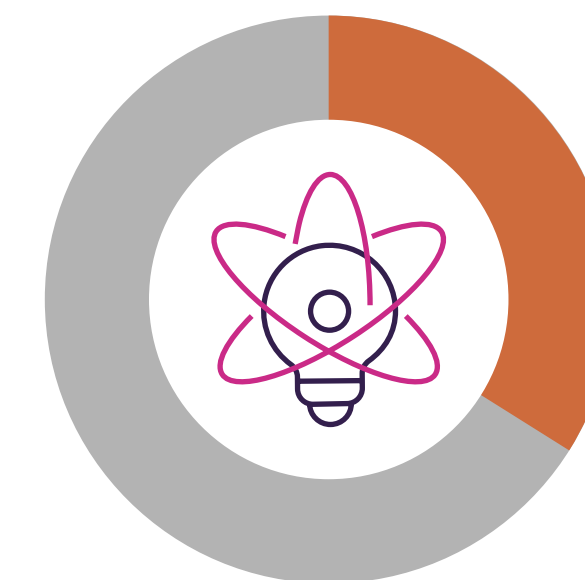
**48%** of vaccine candidates target diseases for which there are no existing vaccines<sup>10</sup>



**12%** of the pipeline is for cell and gene therapies<sup>11</sup>



**143** agents are in clinical trials for Alzheimer's disease<sup>12</sup>



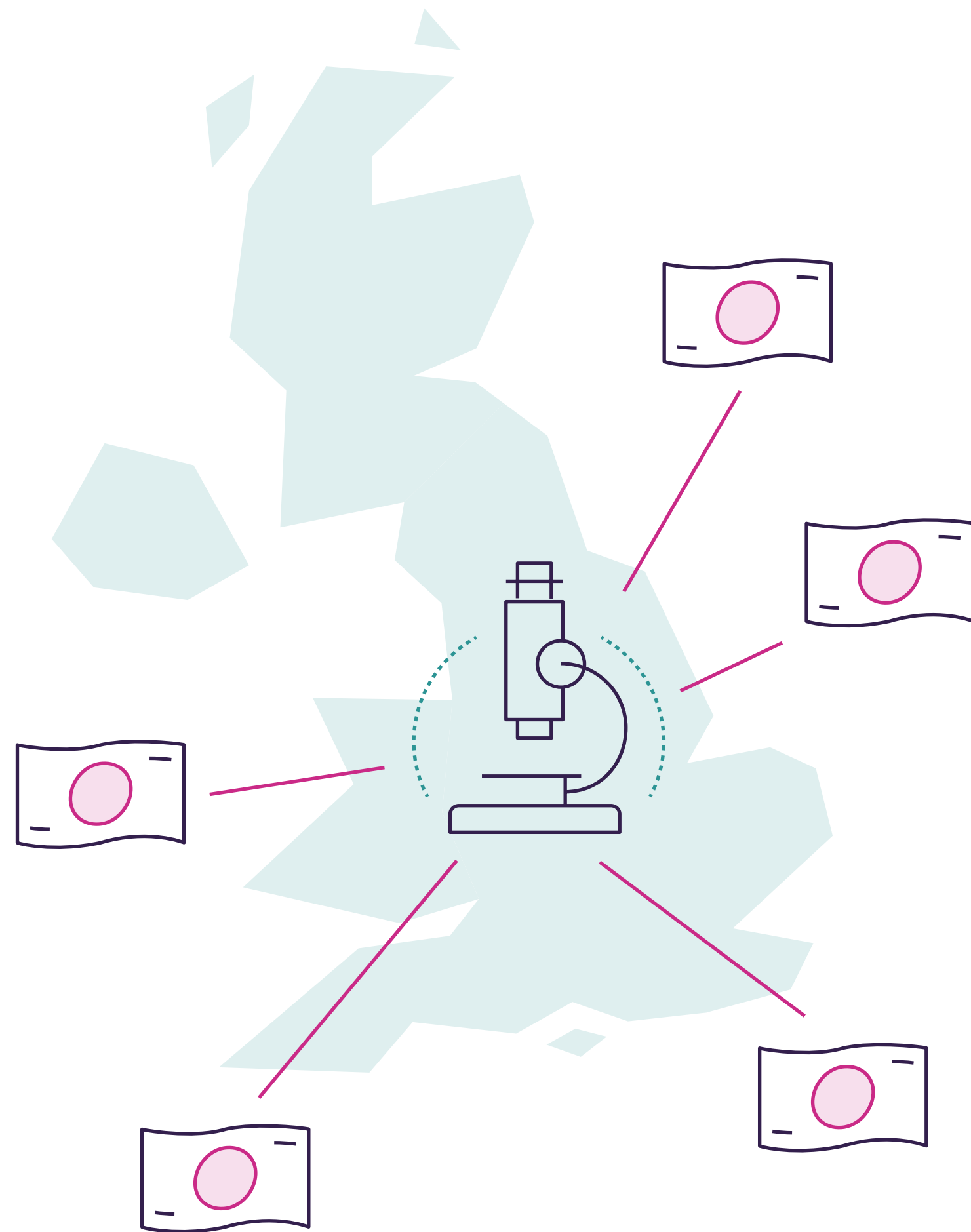
**34%** of the UK's medicine pipeline is for innovative cancer treatments

# Ask 1

Strengthen the development, regulation and adoption journey for new medicines and vaccines, **making the UK a beacon for global research investment**



The UK must target public funding for **cutting-edge assets and expertise** to attract investment



R&D of new medicines and vaccines contributes to economic growth. In the UK, life sciences represent the top-spending private R&D sector, driving medical progress and bringing new treatments to patients that can transform their quality of life.

However, this impressive performance is in decline. The number of UK clinical trials taking place dropped rapidly during the pandemic, and has not recovered as fast as other countries, although there are now some early signs of recovery.<sup>13</sup> In addition, UK data infrastructure is heavily fragmented and in need of reform.

To address these issues, the UK must target public funding towards creating the cutting-edge assets and expertise needed to attract investment. It must also focus on creating the right infrastructure to take innovation from laboratories through clinical trials and all the way to becoming approved medicines used by the NHS.

The UK has the potential to be a world leader in R&D if the next government adopts and delivers policies to:



**Create a joined-up life sciences ecosystem with the resources and capacity to deliver rapid approvals, leading to rapid adoption and use of medicines by the NHS.**

Alignment between the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), health technology assessments (HTA) bodies and the NHS must be improved to avoid medicines receiving early regulatory approval, only to become delayed at the HTA or commissioning stage. The Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP) offers principles of how organisations might better support medicines developers, but so far has failed to deliver substantial outcomes that are measurable from a medicines-development or patient-access perspective. The MHRA, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and ILAP partners must have sufficient capacity and the right expertise to deliver innovative treatments for patients, allowing them to consistently deliver within agreed timeframes.





**Deliver long-term certainty on research funding by setting a goal for the UK to have the highest level of public R&D investment in the G7.**

Allocation of research funding should build on the UK's existing strengths in its science base and focus resources on areas with the greatest potential impact. The government should seek to enhance collaboration among national funding organisations to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach and engage researchers from industry and academia in decision-making.

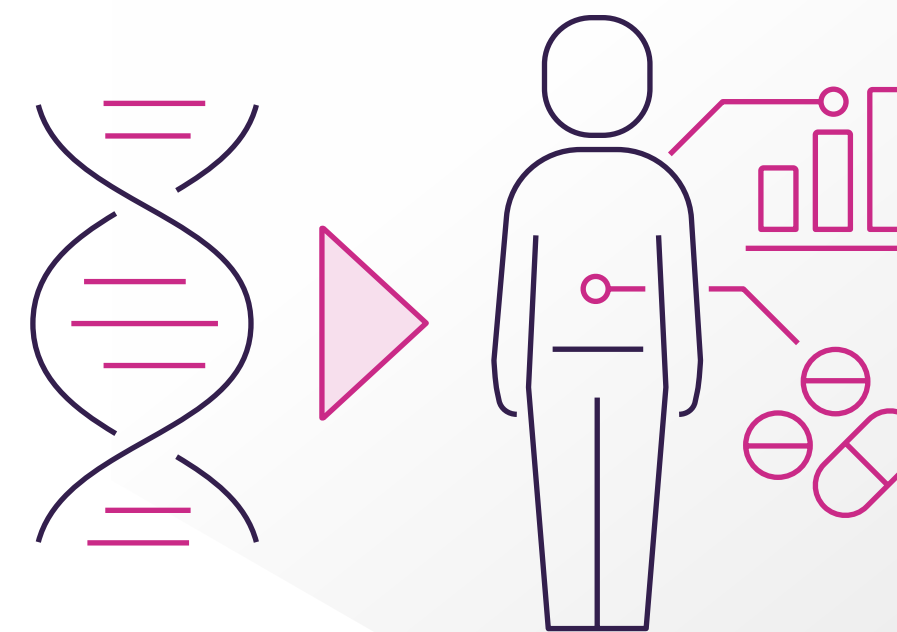


**Reverse the decline in industry clinical trials in the UK<sup>14</sup>** by continuing to implement at speed the UK-wide vision for clinical research delivery and the recommendations of Lord O'Shaughnessy's independent review of commercial clinical research to rebuild global confidence in the UK as a research destination.



**Create a seamless pathway between genetic testing, personalised medicines access, and clinical trials.**

There is currently no defined pathway to link up patients, based on their genetic test results, with clinical trials in the UK. Consequently, patients are missing out on potentially life-saving opportunities. To address this gap, the next government must put in place a coherent seamless pathway to rapidly enrol patients, based on genetic findings, into innovative clinical trials.



**Rapidly enroll patients**  
into clinical trials through  
genetic findings





### Establish a world leading, health data-enabled patient recruitment service for clinical trials

by combining and scaling existing government initiatives to create a centralised health data recruitment service that will offer patients, regardless of their location in the UK, an opportunity to take part in commercial and non-commercial clinical trials.



### Ensure that the UK's health data offer is globally competitive.

NHS data can be used to improve patient outcomes and NHS efficiency and to support innovation. Developing a fit-for-purpose, sustainable health data infrastructure will attract industry to the UK and meet the needs of commercial and non-commercial researchers, lead to efficiencies in the system and deliver benefits for patient and the NHS.



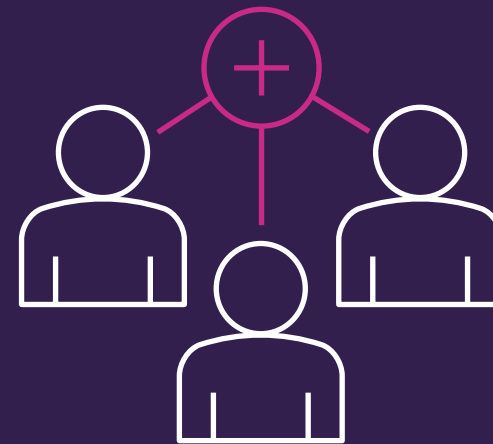
## The reward for getting it right



**Quicker patient access to new medicines via clinical trials.** Increasing recruitment to industry clinical trials could unlock up to

**£3.5bn** of income for the NHS over five years,

including up to **£678m** in cost savings from medicines and treatments provided free by companies through clinical trials.



**Greater cost efficiencies for the system.** Many parts of the system required to deliver R&D improvements already exist, but they are operating in isolation. Combining assets and expertise to design and deliver the right services for patients, the NHS and industry will create **cost efficiencies**, **attract inward investment** and **maximise taxpayers' money**.

Source: PWC, Life Sciences Superpower Report, June 2022.

# Ask 2

Work with industry as a partner to drive better health, investing in medicines and vaccines to improve prevention and health equity and deliver a sustainable NHS



UK patients continue to miss out on the best standard of care, with the UK among the lowest users of new medicines in the developed world.

This contributes to UK health outcomes continuing to fall behind, with research showing that, when looking at preventable and treatable causes of mortality, the UK is 16th and 18th respectively out of 19 comparable countries.<sup>15</sup> These issues are contributing significantly to a shrinking labour force and stalling productivity: ill health among working-age people is costing the UK £43 billion annually.<sup>16</sup>

A sustained approach to support equitable and early use of NICE-approved medicines will improve health outcomes by reducing disease progression, help to address NHS capacity challenges, and drive improvements in UK productivity and economic output.

To achieve this, the next government should:

## The UK has **higher avoidable mortality rates** than its peers



### Preventable

1	Japan
2	Italy
3	Spain
4	Sweden
5	Australia
6	Netherlands
7	France
8	New Zealand
9	Ireland
10	Portugal
11	Greece
12	Denmark
13	Germany
14	Austria
15	Canada
<b>16</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
17	Belgium
18	Finland
19	United States



### Treatable

1	Australia
2	Japan
3	France
4	Sweden
5	Netherlands
6	Spain
7	Italy
8	Belgium
9	Finland
10	Denmark
11	Austria
12	Canada
13	New Zealand
14	Germany
15	Portugal
16	Ireland
17	Greece
<b>18</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
19	United States



**Deliver key commitments in the VPAG.**<sup>2</sup> Under this agreement with industry, the government has committed to several key reforms to improve the UK life sciences ecosystem and access to medicines for patients. This included pledges to trial new innovative payment models for cell and gene therapies and review the Commercial Medicines Framework. The delivery of these promises must be collaborative and transparent to industry and patient groups alike.



**Adopt NICE recommendations to value patients' lives more than ever before.** In 2022, NICE recommended that the discount rate – an economic modelling tool used to assess the costs and benefits that a new medicine will accrue over time – should be changed to better reflect the different types of medicines in the pipeline, particularly curative treatments. Making this change would increase the chance of patients getting access to new medicines on the NHS, such as cell and gene therapies.



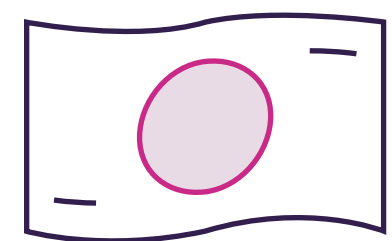
**Guarantee patients' early access to medicines by reforming the unused Innovative Medicines Fund (IMF) for England.** The IMF is a £340 million pot of money, set aside to provide early access to new (non-oncology) medicines. However, since its launch in 2022, the fund has not yet been used for its primary intended purpose, due to overly restrictive entry and exit criteria. Reforming the IMF could allow patients access to new medicines earlier than anywhere else in the world.



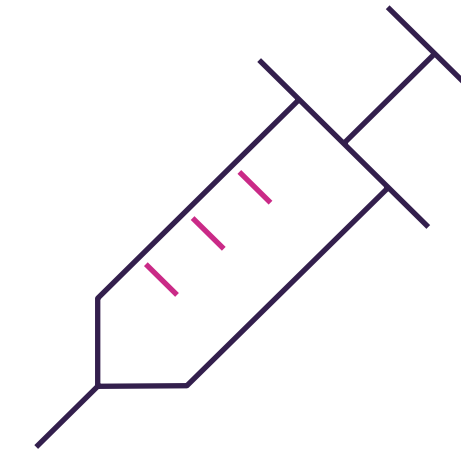
The Innovative Medicines Fund is a

**£340m**

pot of money, set aside to provide **early access to new medicines**



**Prepare the ground for a new generation of innovative vaccines and support vaccine access and uptake.** Vaccination has saved more lives than any advance in recent medical history. Even now, a range of preventative vaccines are being developed to combat issues such as antimicrobial resistance. In fact, 46 percent of vaccines in the current pipeline target conditions for which there are no existing vaccines today.<sup>17</sup> However, the UK needs to be better prepared for these innovations. The route to a new immunisation programme is lengthy and poorly understood, with only limited horizon scanning. A more joined-up approach would help NHS planning, avoiding unexpected budgetary pressures for governments, and give the NHS the best chance to deliver new vaccination programmes quickly.



**46%**

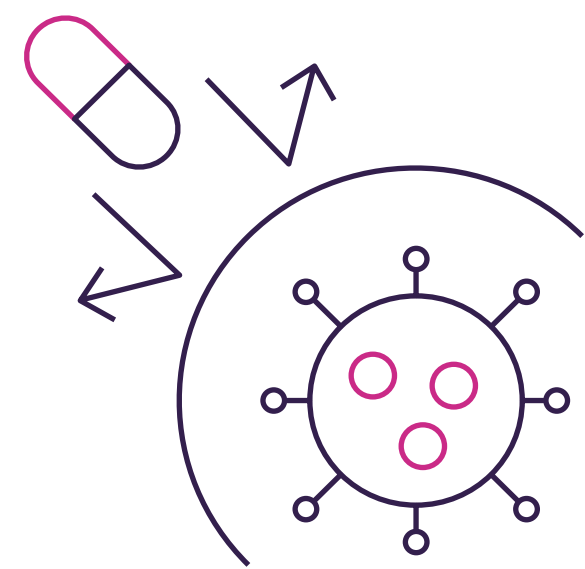
of vaccines in the pipeline target **conditions that have no vaccine**





## Provide dedicated central funding for the National Action Plan to protect the world from the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Antibiotics are the cornerstone of modern medicine. Not only are they pivotal in the treatment of common infections but they are also essential to enable routine healthcare procedures like surgery and chemotherapy. Unfortunately, antibiotic-resistant infections are on the rise. This has been called the 'silent pandemic', with the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring it in the top 10 global public health emergencies. To help protect patients, the government should provide dedicated central funding for the National AMR Action Plan.



### Antibiotic resistant infections

are forecast to cause  
**10m** deaths/year  
worldwide by 2050



## The reward for getting it right

Research by PwC has shown that if the UK increased use across just four types of medicines (DOACs, SGLT2 inhibitors, severe asthma biologics and vasopressin V2-receptor antagonists) in the NICE-recommended eligible patient population, this would deliver:



**1.2m**

additional currently  
**eligible NHS patients**  
getting treatment



**429,000**

additional **years of**  
**life** in good health  
for patients



**£17.9bn**

in **productivity**  
**gains** for the UK



**£5.5bn**

**paid directly back to the**  
**Exchequer** through taxes

Increased access to, and use of, medicines will not just benefit patients. It is a critical part of the ecosystem, encouraging further investment.

Source: [PwC Transforming Lives, Raising Productivity](#)

# Ask 3

Equip industry with the tools to drive UK economic growth, safeguarding intellectual property, removing trade barriers, and incentivising advanced medicines manufacturing and skills development

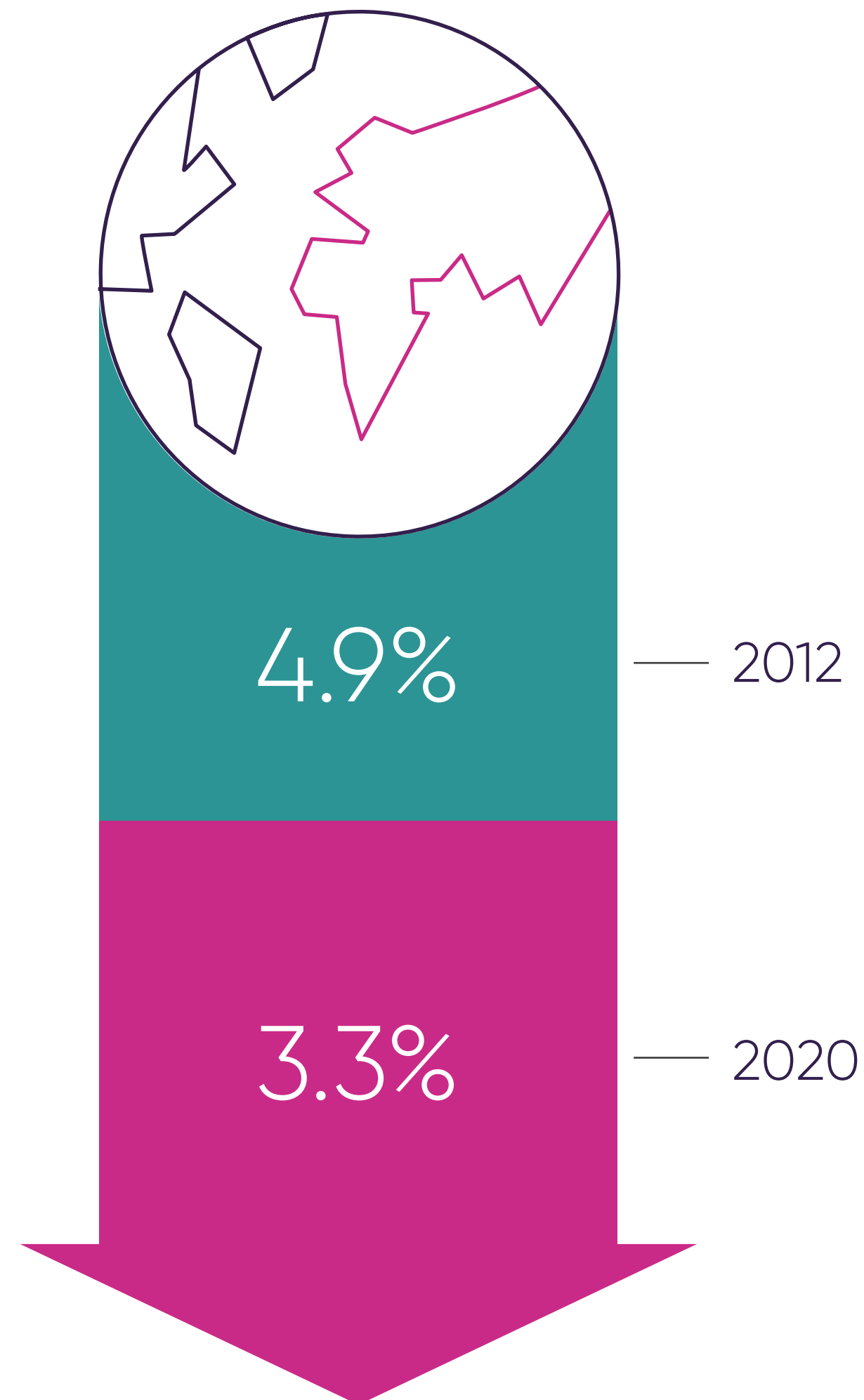


The life sciences industry is one of the most productive and high-value sectors in the UK economy, and successive governments have recognised the importance of the industry for economic growth.

Following the pandemic, international competition to attract life sciences investment is at an all-time high, with many countries launching targeted strategies to capture globally mobile investment. This has resulted in the UK seeing a declining share of global pharmaceutical R&D investment, falling from 4.9 per cent in 2012 to 3.3 per cent in 2020.<sup>18</sup>

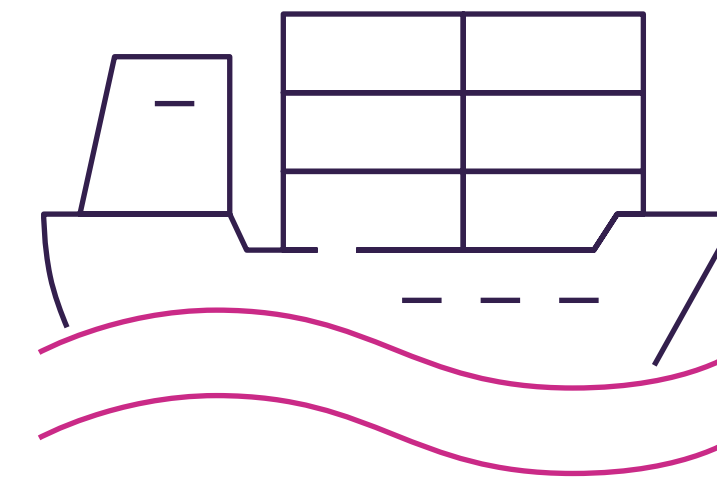
To ensure that the UK retains its competitive edge, the next government should:

## Declining share of global pharmaceutical R&D investment



### Strengthen global trade in life sciences outputs at the WTO by continuing to advocate for international IP frameworks

and take a leadership role in delivering meaningful improvements to rules around trade in health, such as the elimination of tariffs on medicines and their inputs, trade facilitation and eliminating export restrictions.



Remove medicine tariffs and **end export restrictions**



### Use the full range of mechanisms in its trade policy toolkit to promote UK life science exports as a key growth sector.

This means removing trade barriers for businesses through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the WTO framework and regulatory diplomacy.





**Deliver a truly cross-departmental approach to education and skills, with regular collaboration with businesses, to forecast areas of current and future skills need.** Immediate priorities in the next parliament should include:

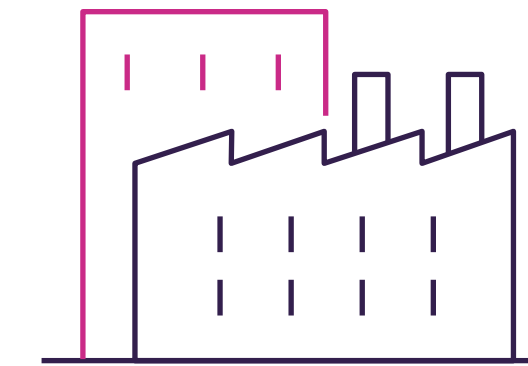
- Reforming the apprenticeship levy to support increased apprenticeship provision and introduce flexibility to support reskilling and upskilling of existing staff.
- Ensuring UK visa costs are benchmarked against our international competitors for cost and processing speed to ensure we can attract highly skilled international talent.
- Enabling greater movement of talent between industry and academia through co-designed research funding programmes.
- Ensuring there is a strategic government-industry forum with representation from priority sectors, through which mapping and analysis on future cross-economy skills needs can take place and policy proposals assessed.



**Make the UK a world leader in advanced and sustainable medicines manufacturing by delivering a long-term programme of capital grants and innovation funding.** This should include:

- Delivering on the announced £520 million Capital Grants Programme for Life Sciences Manufacturing, and through this programme supporting companies to invest in late-stage manufacturing R&D.
- Ensuring the UK remains at the forefront of technology and innovation in advanced and sustainable medicines manufacturing by committing £200 million in funding over four years towards Innovate UK's Transforming Medicines Manufacturing Programme. Collaborative R&D and grand challenge programmes should be co-designed with industry to target areas for UK leadership and will be supported by approximately £80 million of industry funding provided through the first-of-its-kind voluntary scheme investment programme.

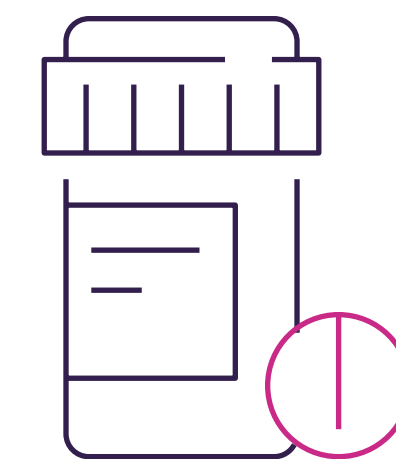
- Investing in the national infrastructure needed to support medicines manufacturers and their supply chains to transition to net zero and deliver on sustainability goals.



**£200m**

**funding over four years**

towards Transforming Medicines Manufacturing Programme



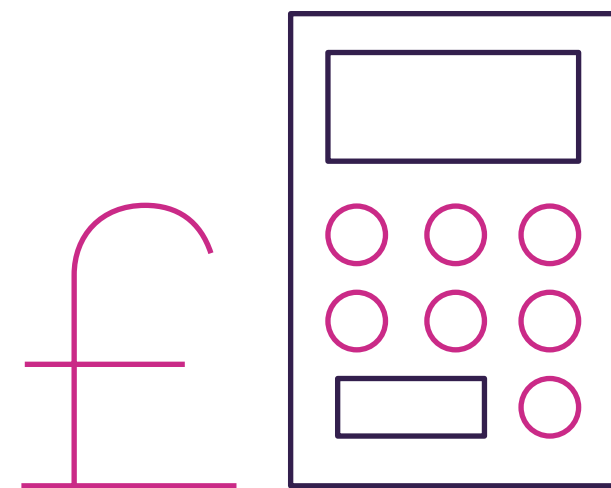
**£80m**

funding through **first-of-its-kind** voluntary scheme



**Deliver stability for prospective investors by providing an internationally competitive tax and fiscal incentives environment for R&D and capital investment.** This should include:

- broadening the scope of the 'full expensing' capital allowances model beyond qualifying plant and machinery
- expanding eligible expenditure for R&D tax credits to include capital expenditure, while ensuring the rate of relief under the current Research and Development Expenditure Credit scheme is retained
- maintaining a globally competitive Patent Box incentive that rewards and incentivises the commercialisation of UK innovations



R&D and capital  
**investment  
incentives**



## The reward for getting it right



**Pharmaceutical manufacturing** is already responsible for **£16.4bn** in GVA to the **UK economy** each year



By delivering a **supportive policy** and **operating environment** for medicines manufacturing, the UK could attract **£15bn** worth of investment and create an additional 26,500 jobs over the next 10 years

Source: [www.abpi.org.uk/media/he0p1ojq/mmip-2023-report.pdf](http://www.abpi.org.uk/media/he0p1ojq/mmip-2023-report.pdf)

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## Further background

[Life Sciences Superpower: growing the leading global hub in the UK](#)

[How does the NHS compare to the Health Systems of Other Countries](#)



## About the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

The ABPI exists to make the UK the best place in the world to research, develop and access medicines and vaccines to improve patient care.

We represent companies of all sizes which invest in making and discovering medicines and vaccines to enhance and save the lives of millions of people around the world.

In England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, we work in partnership with governments and the NHS so that patients can get new treatments faster and the NHS can plan how much it spends on medicines. Every day, our members partner with healthcare professionals, academics and patient organisations to find new solutions to unmet health needs.

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### The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

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Registered office 2nd Floor Goldings House, Hay's Galleria, 2 Hay's Lane, London, SE1 2HB

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