

## Dear Mr Sunak and Ms Truss,

The 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto contained many important commitments about medicines, vaccines, and the life sciences sector. Chief amongst them was the ambition to make the UK “the leading global hub for life sciences”.

**Should you become Prime Minister in September, it is critical that you accelerate the important work to deliver on this.**

Working together through the Life Sciences Vision, much has already been achieved. Post-Brexit, we’ve seen the introduction of new regulatory initiatives designed to get new medicines approved faster; we’ve seen the Innovative Medicines Fund established; and we’ve seen investments made into health data and boosting medicines manufacturing in the UK.

**However, there are real signs that the UK is slipping behind our global competitors in the race to become a life sciences superpower.** Recent data demonstrates that:

- Clinical research activity in the UK is declining, with significant challenges in setting up and recruiting patients to cutting-edge industry trials. The UK has fallen from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in the world for Phase 3 clinical trials since 2017.<sup>1</sup>
- Whilst the pharmaceutical industry invests more in R&D than any other sector, the UK’s share of global pharmaceutical R&D expenditure fell from 7.7% in 2012 to 4.1% in 2019<sup>2</sup>.
- Just 68% of medicines approved by the European Medicines Agency were made available in England between 2017 – 2020. Even when approved, use of these new medicines is well below the average of our competitors. In Germany, 92% of these medicines are available.<sup>3</sup>
- Since 2010, the UK has fallen from 4<sup>th</sup> to 98<sup>th</sup> place in overall trade balance in pharmaceuticals.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Clinical research in the UK: an opportunity for growth](#), Autumn 2021

<sup>2</sup> [Life Science Superpower, Growing the leading global hub in the UK](#), June 2022

<sup>3</sup> [Life science competitiveness indicators](#), July 2022

<sup>4</sup> [Selling less and buying more: the worsening trade balance of the UK pharmaceutical industry](#), June 2022


**Such data should ring alarm bells across Government.** The response to the COVID-19 pandemic underlined just how important our life sciences sector is to the future of the UK, and the sector will be just as central to the recovery of our economy and the NHS.

The prize for getting this right is clear. Recent research demonstrates that by implementing the *Life Sciences Vision* in full we can deliver:

- £68 billion in additional GDP over 30 years, owing to increased R&D investment.
- £16.3 billion additional annual GDP from increased pharmaceutical exports.
- Up to a 40% decrease in disease burden across the whole UK – for areas like cardiovascular disease, mental health conditions and Cancer.

The ABPI and our members are committed to working with you to reverse these trends and deliver on the ambition set out in the Conservative Party Manifesto and the Life Sciences Vision. This will require dedication and partnership between industry, Government and the NHS and we urge you to make this central to your agenda as Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,



**Richard Torbett**

Chief Executive

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry