

A guide to the Government for BIA members



September 2023

This is a new briefing for BIA members which looks ahead to the next General Election. It provides a comprehensive rundown of each of the government departments relevant to life sciences, the Ministers leading them, and the Shadow Ministers hoping to take their places in 2024.

Contents

Looking ahead to the election.....	2
Key policymakers' profiles	4
Shadow Ministers' profiles	20
Summary of Ministers and policymakers relevant to the life science sector	24

Looking ahead to the election

How does the Government look?

The Government's working majority in the House of Commons currently sits at 62 seats, having won 365 seats at the 2019 General Election. Two Prime Ministers later, Rishi Sunak's Government technically remains committed to the party's [2019 manifesto](#), although the party is now in the process of developing a new offering for 2024.

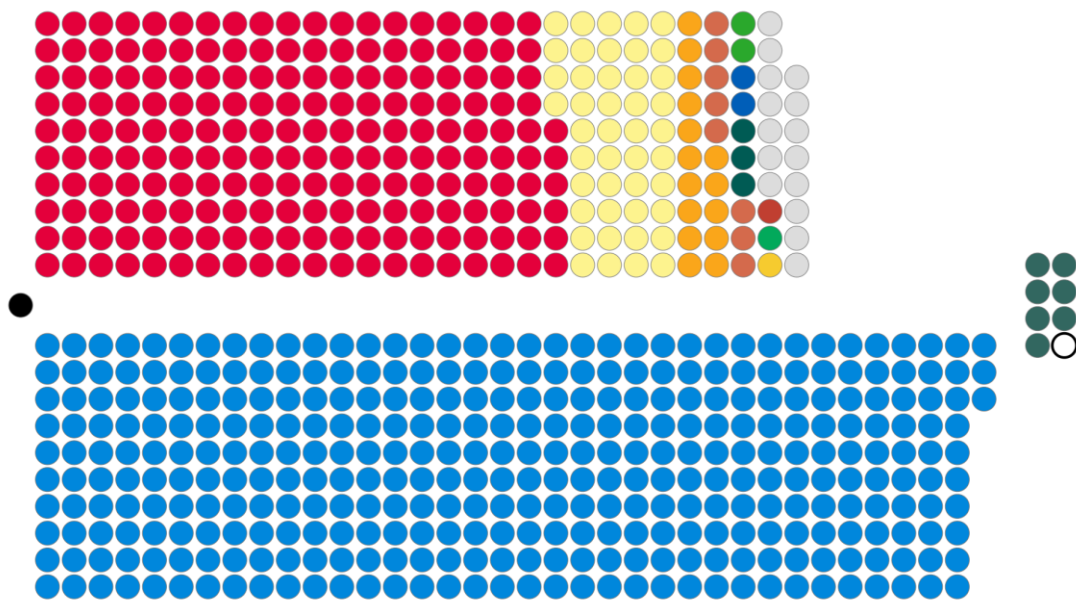


Figure 1 -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_the_United_Kingdom#/media/File:House_of_Commons_UK.svg

Responsibility for life sciences shifted in February, with Sunak [altering the machinery of government](#) to create a new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) with a seat at the Cabinet table.

Most Ministers have now been in post since 2022, allowing the BIA to form strong working relationships with them and their departments. However, with a reshuffle expected this autumn as Sunak assembles a stronger frontbench for the run-up to the election, we remain ready to re-make the case for our sector.

When might the election fall?

Britons last went to the polls in December 2019, meaning that the next General Election must take place before 24 January 2025 under the terms of the Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022.

In all likelihood, the election will take place in 2023. Tradition would dictate a Spring or Autumn election, with the final decision on its timing lying with the Prime Minister. With the Conservatives currently polling poorly, the PM's prerogative will allow him to pick a moment that favours his party, such as good headlines on the economy or any show of weakness or scandal from Labour.

The BIA is already preparing for the election, engaging with parties' manifesto development to ensure that we are on the front foot.

Who will win?

As of August 2023, [polling](#) puts the Labour Party on 45%, well ahead of the Conservatives on 26%. However, Labour will need to gain [124 additional seats](#) to win a majority, a tall order even with the party polling strongly. As ever, marginal swing seats will decide the result of the election, with [key Labour targets](#) including Bury North, Blyth Valley, and Chipping Barnet.

A hung parliament, where no party achieves an overall majority, remains a strong possibility. The largest party would then be faced with three main options:

- A coalition government, likely with the Liberal Democrats and/or SNP, as in 2010-15
- A confidence and supply agreement, as Theresa May struck with the DUP in 2017
- A minority government, as led by Harold Wilson after 1974

The BIA continues to engage with all the major political parties, including the SNP and Liberal Democrats who could be important coalition partners

Key policymakers' profiles

10 Downing Street

Around the PM sits 10 Downing Street, nominally part of the Cabinet Office but with [roughly 300](#) civil servants and special advisers of its own, divided into teams such as the policy unit and comms unit.

Direct access to the PM is difficult, but the advisers and civil servants working in No 10 offer a conduit for getting UK life sciences represented at the highest levels of government.

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP – Prime Minister



Rishi Sunak became Prime Minister in October 2022 following Liz Truss's resignation after 45 days in the job. He previously served as Chancellor of the Exchequer under Boris Johnson, approving the largest ever increase in public R&D investment. He is credited with stabilising the Conservative Party and UK politics more broadly, but faces a tough electoral contest next year, with [current polling](#) putting his party 20 points behind Labour.

Sunak has put innovation at the centre of his economic plan, [pledging](#) to make the UK a 'science superpower'. He spearheaded a change to the machinery of government in February 2023 which created the new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). Sunak subsequently launched DSIT's [Science and Technology Framework](#) in March, setting out how his government 'will cement the UK's place as a science and technology superpower by 2030'. 'The more we innovate, the more we can grow our economy, create the high-paid jobs of the future, protect our security, and improve lives across the country', [said](#) the PM.

Hailing from Stanford University, he is seen as passionate about technology. The PM has mentioned life sciences in a number of his speeches, including in [January](#) when he set out his priorities for 2023. In particular, Sunak has aimed to market the UK as a world leader on AI and its regulation, hence his [AI summit](#) scheduled for November at Bletchley Park. With more and more BIA member companies harnessing AI, this could be a boon for the sector.

The PM has also been drawn into a conflict over the place and pace of Net Zero policies. The Conservatives' victory in the Uxbridge and South Ruislip by-election held in July has been [attributed](#) to the unpopularity of ULEZ, prompting the party to reconsider its green policies. In a press conference in September 2023, Sunak [adjusted his Government's Net Zero commitment](#), pushing the ban on petrol and diesel cars back to 2035. This has implications for BIA members working within the sustainability space and suggests that the UK's level of commitment to Net Zero could loom large over the upcoming general election campaign.

Since becoming the MP for Richmond (Yorkshire) in 2015, Sunak has quickly established himself as a key figure within the Conservative Party. Beginning with stints at the Department for Business, Energy and

Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Ministry of Housing, Sunak became Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 2019 and then Chancellor in 2020. Dissatisfied with the Johnson Administration, he resigned in July 2022 and has now returned to high office as, at 42, the youngest Prime Minister since Lord Liverpool in 1812. Rishi Sunak has a background in finance, beginning his career at Goldman Sachs and later working for a hedge fund.

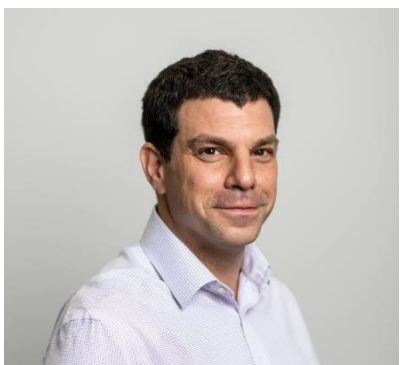
Liam Booth-Smith – Downing Street Chief of Staff



As Downing Street Chief of Staff, Liam Booth-Smith is the PM's most senior political adviser, playing a leading role in the running of Downing Street and holding considerable sway over the direction of policy and communications.

Booth-Smith has been in post since October 2022, having led both of Rishi Sunak's Conservative leadership campaigns in 2022. He has been a Special Adviser since 2018, including to Boris Johnson as PM (July 2019–July 2020) and to Rishi Sunak as Chancellor (February 2020 – July 2022), where he ran the Joint Economic Unit that spanned 10 and 11 Downing Street.

Bill Morgan – Special Adviser to the PM on health



Bill Morgan works as the leading adviser to the Prime Minister on health, having been appointed in November 2022.

He has previously worked as an adviser in the Department of Health and Social Care and in 2013 founded Evoke Incisive Health, a health communications consultancy.

A delegation of BIA members met with Bill Morgan as part of our 2023 Parliament Day, discussing the Prime Minister's priorities and where life sciences fit in.

Cabinet Office

Sitting at the centre of government, the Cabinet Office supports the work of the PM and their Cabinet. It supports cross-government working, promotes efficiency and reform, and takes the lead on critical policy issues.

The BIA's engagement with the Cabinet Office includes:

- *Biological security*
- *The National Security and Investment regime*

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP – Deputy Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster



Oliver Dowden was appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in October 2022, later picking up the role of Secretary of State in the Cabinet Office and Deputy Prime Minister following the resignation of Dominic Raab in April 2023. He has since deputised for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on multiple occasions.

Dowden holds a powerful position within the Cabinet Office which grants him cross-government oversight, including on procurement policy and the national security and investment regime. He also leads on biosecurity, playing a role in the UK Biological Security Strategy published in June 2023.

Dowden has been the MP for Hertsmere since 2015, previously working as a special adviser, including numerous roles within David Cameron's Government between 2012 and 2015. He holds a degree in Law from the University of Cambridge.

HM Treasury

HM Treasury is arguably the most important department, overseeing public spending across government as well as taxation. HMT monitors day-to-day spending as well as issuing long term guidance through documents like the Green Book.

The BIA's engagement with HM Treasury includes:

- *Unlocking pension funds to invest in the innovative life sciences, as achieved through the [Mansion House Compact](#)*
- *Ensuring that the UK's R&D tax credit regime and the broader tax system supports the life sciences sector*
- *Increasing public and private investment in the life sciences*

The BIA meet with Treasury civil servants regularly, in addition to meetings with Ministers, including with the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury as part of our 2023 Parliament Day and at the [Life Sciences Connect](#) conference organised by HMT in March 2023.

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP – Chancellor of the Exchequer



Jeremy Hunt was appointed Chancellor by then Prime Minister Liz Truss following the sacking of Kwasi Kwarteng. He is viewed as a figure of financial orthodoxy tasked with reversing the impacts of Truss's economic policies. He was reappointed by Sunak to play an important part in the Prime Minister's [plan](#) to 'place economic stability and confidence at the heart of this government's agenda'. As the longest-serving Health Secretary in British political history (2012-2018), Hunt entered Number 11 with a wealth of life sciences experience.

In his [Autumn Statement](#) in November 2022, Hunt referred to life sciences as one of the UK's 'five growth industries' and upheld the importance of ensuring the UK is a science superpower. Hunt protected the R&D budget of £20 billion by 2024-2025, set out in 2021's Comprehensive Spending Review.

However, the Chancellor's proposed reforms to R&D tax reliefs would have [effectively halved the value of the scheme](#) for loss-making life sciences companies.

Hunt's March 2023 [Spring Budget](#) unveiled a new enhanced R&D tax relief rate for loss-making SMEs investing over 40% of their operating costs in R&D, raising the cash payment they receive to 27p for every £1 invested. This announcement followed extended discussions with our sector, including BIA and its member companies. Further announcements included £10 million for the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), a new invitation to provide feedback on the Long-Term Investment for Technology and Science (LIFTS) initiative, and the extension of British Patient Capital for another decade, protecting it until 2033/4.

The Chancellor announced a package of pension reforms in July 2023, including the Mansion House Compact, an agreement with pension providers to allocate at least 5% of their funds to unlisted equities like life sciences SMEs. This was the product of [a long-running BIA campaign](#) to unlock sources of institutional investment to boost UK start-ups and scale-ups.

Although some speculated that Hunt might be removed as Chancellor in Rishi Sunak's forthcoming reshuffle, [it now seems that he will remain in post](#) through the 2024 general election campaign. The question of whether the Chancellor will be able to offer pre-election tax cuts to the electorate remains in the balance.

Hunt entered Parliament as the MP for South West Surrey in 2005 and later served as Secretary of State for Health between 2012 and 2018 under David Cameron and Theresa May before leading the Foreign Office until 2019. Before entering politics, and after graduating with a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Hunt worked in management consulting and founded Hotcourses, an international study platform.

Rt Hon John Glen MP – Chief Secretary to the Treasury



As Chief Secretary to the Treasury (CST), John Glen has been the second most senior Treasury Minister after the Chancellor since October 2022. The Minister leads on procurement, state pensions, capital investment, and skills.

Glen has been the member for Salisbury since 2010. Prior to becoming an MP he held various advisory roles, including as Director of the Conservative Party's Research Department between 2005 and 2006 and then as Senior Adviser to Accenture's Head of Strategy between 2006 and 2010. He holds a degree in History from Oxford University.

Victoria Atkins MP – Financial Secretary to the Treasury



Victoria Atkins has served as the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (FST) since October 2022. The FST is responsible for the UK tax system and trade policy, making the Minister a key stakeholder for the BIA's [R&D tax credits campaign](#).

With responsibility for taxation, the Finance Bill, HMRC, and retained EU law, Atkins is responsible for a number of policy areas that impact life science SMEs. She [quoted Steve Bates](#) in the House of Commons in March 2023, referring to his comment that 'modernising R&D tax reliefs to include data and cloud computing is essential for life science firms discovering and developing life-changing therapies for patients'.

Atkins became the Member for Louth and Horncastle in 2015, soon becoming the first 2015 entrant to become a minister. She read Law at the University of Cambridge and later qualified as a barrister.

Andrew Griffith MP – Economic Secretary to the Treasury



Andrew Griffith became Sunak's Economic Secretary to the Treasury (EST) in October 2022. The EST is the City Minister, responsible for financial services.

As EST, Griffith is responsible for all financial services policy, reform and regulation, as well as pensions tax, the British Business Bank, and British Patient Capital. The BIA have recently spoken to the Minister about the [Mansion House Compact](#) and stamp tax changes.

Griffith was elected the Member for Arundel and South Downs in 2019. He read Law at Nottingham University and worked as an accountant before becoming Sky's Chief Financial Officer and later Chief Operating Officer.

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

The creation of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) in February 2023 gave our sector a seat at the Cabinet table, demonstrating the importance of science and innovation to Sunak's Government. DSIT was created by a merger of parts of the old Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy with the digital arm of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The Office for Life Sciences, which is BIA's primary point of government engagement, sits within DSIT and is shared with the Department for Health and Social Care.

The BIA's engagement with DSIT includes:

- The [Science and Technology Framework](#), a major strategy for our sector which identified engineering biology as a 'critical technology'
- The R&D budget
- Skills and talent
- Reviews such as the [Nurse Review](#) and [AI White Paper](#)
- Association with Horizon Europe

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP – Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology



Michelle Donelan MP was promoted to Secretary of State for the newly created Department for Science, Innovation and Technology by Rishi Sunak in his February 2023 reshuffle. She was previously the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (2022-3).

Donelan became the inaugural Secretary of State in the newly formed Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) following the changes made to the machinery of government by Sunak in February 2023. Donelan's previous roles have not been within science or business, having worked in various roles at the Department for Education between 2019 and 2022.

In her first [Tweet](#) in her new role, Donelan expressed her ambition to 'make Britain the most innovative economy in the world'. Donelan [spoke of](#) the importance of bringing together quantum, AI, engineering biology, life sciences, and green technologies under one department. In March 2023, her department published its plan, the [UK Science and Technology Framework](#), which aims to make the UK a science superpower by 2030.

Donelan went on maternity leave in 2023, during which time the BIA met with her cover, Chloe Smith MP, as part of our Parliament Day.

Donelan has been the Member for Chippenham since 2015. She then became Universities Minister between 2020 and 2022 before a brief stint as Secretary of State for Education under Truss. Before entering politics, she worked in marketing, having graduated with a BA in History and Politics from York University.

George Freeman MP – Minister of State (Minister for Science, Research and Innovation)



George Freeman MP remains a Minister for State in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), having previously served as Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Apart from a period without a ministerial position in the summer of 2022, Freeman has been the Science Minister since his appointment by then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson in September 2021.

As the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation within the new Science Department, Freeman has a strengthened position from which to push the science agenda. Life sciences are also again part of his brief, having been absent during his more recent stint at BEIS. He is also responsible for international science and research (including association with Horizon Europe), the Innovation Strategy, and engineering biology, which has been identified as an area of focus for DSIT.

In an earlier [Tweet](#) setting out his priorities at BEIS, Freeman had listed Horizon Europe, launching ARIA, improving the R&D ecosystem, attracting talent and skills, connecting the City to UK scale-ups, and boosting R&D clusters. All of these are key issues impacting the life science sector, reflecting Freeman's considerable experience working in this area in government, beginning with his appointment as government adviser on life sciences in July 2011. He is also a long-time ally of the BIA, speaking at our 2022 Parliament Day and on a BIA panel at Conservative Party Conference in October 2023.

Before being elected to Parliament, Freeman had a 15-year career across the life sciences sector, particularly working with hospitals, clinical researchers, patient groups and biomedical research companies to pioneer novel healthcare innovations. He set up 4D Biomedical, a consulting and seed investment advisory business and worked as a biomedical venture capitalist. He holds a BA in Geography from the University of Cambridge and has been the MP for Mid Norfolk since 2010.

Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP – Minister of State (Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure)



Sir John Whittingdale MP is an acting Minister for State who sits across DSIT and the reformed Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). He is in post while the previous incumbent, Julia Lopez MP, is on maternity leave. Whittingdale brings strong experience to the role, having served in the same post previously under Boris Johnson between 2020 and 2021.

Within DSIT, Whittingdale will take responsibility for digital infrastructure, data (including the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill), and data security, as well as the Information Commissioner's Office.

John Whittingdale previously served as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport between 2015 and 2016 under David Cameron. While the Conservatives were in Opposition, he was Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (2001-2) and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport between 2002 and 2005, serving under both Iain Duncan Smith and Michael Howard.

Whittingdale is a veteran MP, having been the Member for Maldon since 1992. He holds a BSc in Economics from UCL and worked as a Special Adviser to Norman Tebbit MP and later as a Political Adviser and Private Secretary to Margaret Thatcher MP before becoming an MP himself.

Paul Scully MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy)



Paul Scully became a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) in the February 2023 reshuffle. He has been the Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy within the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) since October 2022. With DCMS's responsibility for digital moving to DSIT, Scully will likely continue to work on digital issues within the new department.

Scully retains his responsibility for tech policy, also taking on digital (including the Digital Competition Bill and Digital Markets Bill), and international strategy (including the Electronic Trade Documents Bill).

Scully was previously Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy between 2020 and 2022. During this time, BIA met with him to discuss the NSI Bill, innovation funding, and the Biomedical Catalyst.

Scully has been the MP for Sutton and Cheam since 2015. After graduating from Reading University with a degree in Chemistry and Food Science, Scully worked as a Parliamentary Assistant to Alok Sharma MP and then as a consultant at Nudge Factory.

Lord Camrose – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for AI and Intellectual Property)



Jonathan Berry, 5th Viscount Camrose was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) in March 2023. He will be the Department's sole representative in the House of Lords.

As well as taking responsibility for all DSIT business in the House of Lords, Lord Camrose will look after AI and IP, including the Intellectual Property Office (IPO).

Camrose is a hereditary peer who was elected to the House of Lords in April 2022. Prior to this, Camrose worked for a range of large organisations including Pfizer, BP, Shell, and Dell. At Pfizer, he worked in Business Technology roles at a global and national level. Camrose has also been a member of the Industry Advisory Board at the Royal Holloway College School of Life Sciences.

Department of Health and Social Care

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is a crucial stakeholder for the BIA, overseeing the NHS and the overall direction of health policy in the UK.

Much of our engagement with the DHSC pertains to the vision of the NHS as an innovation partner, as set out in the [Life Sciences Vision](#) in 2021. The Office for Life Sciences (OLS), which sits between DHSC and DSIT, is tasked with implementing the vision, making them an important conduit for reaching DHSC.

Particular topics of engagement with DHSC include:

- *Negotiations with industry such as the Voluntary Pricing and Access Scheme ([VPAS](#))*
- *Key organisations like the MHRA and NICE*
- *Embedding genomics within the NHS and improving health data access*
- *Pandemic preparedness, including the work of UKHSA.*

Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP – Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



Stephen Barclay was reappointed Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, having previously held the role between July and September 2022. He has been the MP for North East Cambridgeshire since 2010.

Prior to his earlier stint as Secretary of State under Boris Johnson, Barclay had worked as Minister of State for Health between January and November 2018. In a [statement](#) setting out his priorities, Barclay pledged to focus on ‘the areas that matter most to the patient experience’, including improving access to primary care, focusing on recovery plans, and investing in technology to improve patient outcomes.

Much of Barclay’s efforts have focused on reducing NHS waiting lists, one of the PM’s [five priorities](#). He has also been [faced with various strikes](#) within the NHS, including by nurses and junior doctors.

Barclay read History at the University of Cambridge and then qualified as a solicitor, later working for Axa Insurance and the Financial Services Authority. He has held various ministerial positions, notably Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union between 2018 and 2020 and Chief Secretary to the Treasury from 2020 to 2021.

Will Quince MP – Minister of State (Minister for Health and Secondary Care)



Will Quince became a Minister of State at the DHSC in September 2022, having been appointed by Liz Truss and then re-appointed by Rishi Sunak. He previously worked at the Department for Education between 2021 and 2022 as Minister for Children and Families and later Minister for School Standards.

Quince will be an important stakeholder as his extensive portfolio includes life sciences, genomics, medicines, and sponsorship of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Although he hasn’t held a health or business brief before, Quince has [expressed](#) his desire to ‘speak fluent life sciences’ and recently [visited](#) the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult Manufacturing Innovation Centre in Stevenage. He has also met with BIA multiple times since becoming

minister.

The BIA’s engagement with Minister Quince mainly regarded the negotiation of a new Voluntary Pricing and Access Scheme ([VPAS](#)), an agreement between the Government and the ABPI. We met with the Minister as part of our Parliament Day in 2023 and set out [our vision for the next VPAS](#) in June.

He has been the Member for Colchester since 2015 and graduated from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth with a LLB in Law in 2005. Quince has announced that he will stand down as an MP at the next election.

Helen Whately MP- Minister of State (Minister for Social Care)



Helen Whately returned to the DHSC as Minister for Social Care in October 2022, having been appointed by Rishi Sunak. She served in the same post under Boris Johnson between February 2020 and September 2021.

Importantly, in addition to social care, Whately's brief includes responsibility for major diseases (cancer, diabetes, and strokes) and rare diseases. Whately recently published the second [Rare Disease Action Plan](#) for England and participated in a Westminster Hall [debate](#) on patients with rare diseases in March 2023.

Whately was elected MP for Faversham and Mid Kent in 2015 and was most recently in government as Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury. She holds a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University.

Neil O'Brien MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Primary Care and Public Health)



Neil O'Brien became a health minister in September 2022 under Liz Truss and was re-appointed by Rishi Sunak. The position had previously been known as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Vaccines and Public Health while Maggie Throup MP was in post.

O'Brien has not previously worked at the DHSC but was a member of the Science and Technology Select Committee between 2017 and 2019 and a Parliamentary Private Secretary at BEIS between 2018 and 2019. He will now take responsibility for vaccines, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which absorbed some of the Vaccine Taskforce's duties, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

O'Brien holds a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University and previously worked at think tanks including Policy Exchange before becoming a special advisor at HM Treasury and to Prime Minister Theresa May. He also co-founded the think tank Onward in 2018. He has been the MP for Harborough since the 2017 general election.

Maria Caulfield MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Mental Health and Women’s Health Strategy)



Maria Caulfield has worked in various roles at the Department of Health and Social Care since 2021. She was most recently appointed Minister for Mental Health and Women’s Health Strategy by Rishi Sunak in October 2022.

In addition to her mental health and women’s health brief, Caulfield takes responsibility for vaccines (including both COVID-19 vaccine deployment and routine immunisations), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), and patient safety.

Caulfield is the Member for Lewes. She worked as an NHS nurse for twenty years before entering politics and now holds an MSc in Cancer Care.

Department for Business and Trade

The Department for Business Trade (DBT) was created in its current guise by Rishi Sunak’s February 2023 changes to the machinery of government, merging the old Department of International Trade (DIT) with the parts of the Department of Business and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) which weren’t moved across to DSIT.

Although DBT no longer takes responsibility for life sciences specifically, the department remains an important stakeholder for the BIA. For example:

- *Support for UK businesses, particularly innovative SMEs who need support starting and scaling up*
- *Working to increase foreign investment by advertising UK life sciences abroad, supported by Dan Mahony as Life Science Investment Envoy*

Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP – Secretary of State for Business and Trade



Kemi Badenoch became Secretary of State for International Trade under Liz Truss in September 2022. She was then promoted to Secretary of State for Business and Trade in February 2023 following the former Department for International Trade’s reorganisation as the Department for Business and Trade.

Badenoch began her ministerial career at the Department for Education and has since held roles at HM Treasury (2020-21) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021-2). She rose to prominence during the 2022 Conservative Party leadership contest, where she finished fourth. Having been rewarded with the role of Secretary of State, Badenoch has [listed her priorities](#) as slashing trade barriers, reaching £1 trillion exports

by 2030, becoming Europe's number one investment destination, and defending free trade by strengthening supply chains. [Speaking](#) at a meeting of the Board of Trade in Cardiff in November, Badenoch also launched a report on UK life sciences and celebrated the sector, including a reference to the crucial importance of SMEs within the ecosystem.

Badenoch has been the Member for Saffron Walden since 2017. She holds an MEng in Systems Engineering and an LLB from the University of London and has worked in a range of roles, including in IT with Logica and later in consultancy and digital at Coutts and *The Spectator* respectively.

Lord Johnson of Lainston CBE – Minister for Investment



Lord Johnson became Minister for Investment at the Department of International Trade in October 2022, replacing Lord Grimstone under Liz Truss. He was reappointed by Sunak in November 2022 and then transferred to the new Department for Business and Industry as a result of the February 2023 reshuffle.

Lord Johnson is responsible for the promotion of investment across sectors, investor relationship management, and the Office for Investment. The BIA met with Lord Johnson as part of our 2023 Parliament Day, discussing the importance of attracting investors to UK life sciences and he also spoke at the London Stock Exchange's Future of Healthcare Investor Forum, which the BIA helps organise.

Before being raised to the peerage in October 2022, Lord Johnson had been the vice-chairman of the Conservative Party between 2016 and 2019. He spent his career in finance and asset management, including for Somerset Capital Management, where he worked with Jacob Rees-Mogg.

Kevin Hollinrake MP – Minister for Enterprise, Markets & Small Business



Kevin Hollinrake became a Minister at the newly formed Department of Business and Industry as a result of the February 2023 reshuffle.

Hollinrake's role as Minister for Small Businesses marked his first move away from the backbenches, having previously served as PPS to Michael Gove during his time as Secretary of State for the Environment and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

He now takes responsibility for scale up strategy and access to finance, two major challenges for UK life science SMEs.

He is the Member for Thirsk and Malton and, before entering politics, worked in property. He holds a degree in Physics from Sheffield Polytechnic.

The Earl of Minto – Minister for Regulatory Reform



The Earl of Minto is a hereditary peer who has served as the Minister for Regulatory Reform at DBT since March 2023.

He is responsible for cross-government regulatory reform and better regulation, potentially covering the work of the MHRA.

The Earl of Minto entered the Lords in 2022 following a by-election. He previously worked as the Chief Executive of Paperchase and holds a BSc from North London Polytechnic.

Department for Education

The BIA's engagement with the Department for Education (DfE) includes:

- *Apprenticeships in the life sciences, including through reform of the apprenticeship levy*

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP – Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education



Robert Halfon has been the Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education since October 2022, a post he previously held under Theresa May between 2016 and 2017.

In his role, Halfon is responsible for a number of areas with implications for the life science sector and its skill gaps, particularly apprenticeships and post-16 technical education.

Halfon has been the Member for Harlow since 2010. He holds a MA in Russian and Eastern European Politics from Exeter University.

Home Office

The BIA's engagement with the Home Office includes:

- *Immigration and visas for skilled workers.*

- *Regulation of animal research*

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP – Minister for Immigration



Robert Jenrick has been the Minister for Immigration since October 2022. His previous ministerial roles include a stint as Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury between 2018 and 2019.

The BIA engage with the Home Office on immigration to ensure that life science companies can attract the talent they need in order to grow.

He first became an MP in 2014, winning the Newark by-election. Jenrick holds a BA in History from the University of Cambridge in addition to a Graduate Diploma in Law.

Lord Sharpe of Epsom OBE – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State



A member of the House of Lords since 2020, Lord Sharpe became a Home Office Minister in September 2022.

He is responsible for animal research policy, digital and technology, analysis, science and research.

Before entering politics, Lord Sharpe worked as a broker, including at Morgan Stanley and UBS Investment Bank, before holding various roles at the National Conservative Convention.

Defra

With more and more BIA companies working within the emerging bioeconomy, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has become an increasingly important stakeholder.

The BIA's engagement with Defra includes:

- *Access and benefit sharing of genetic resources (including the Nagoya Protocol)*
- *Biological security and pandemic preparedness*

Rt Hon Lord Benyon - Minister for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs



Lord Benyon was raised to the peerage as Baron Benyon in 2021 and became Minister for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs in May of that year. He was formerly the Conservative MP for Newbury between 2005 and 2019.

Responsibility for biosecurity was first added to this ministerial brief under Theresa May in 2016. Biosecurity has achieved greater prominence in recent years, as exemplified by the publication of the [UK Biological Security Strategy](#) in June. The BIA met with the Minister in 2023 as part of a roundtable on a multilateral benefit sharing mechanism for the use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources.

Outside of politics, Lord Benyon is a farmer and served in the British Army between 1981 and 1985. He holds a Diploma in Land Economy from the Royal Agricultural College.

Shadow Ministers' profiles

In September 2023, Keir Starmer [reshuffled his shadow cabinet](#), assembling a team which will go into the 2024 general election campaign and who will form Labour's frontbench should they win.

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP – Leader of the Opposition



Sir Keir Starmer has been the leader of the Labour Party, and therefore Leader of the Opposition, since April 2020. He was elected by the party membership to replace Jeremy Corbyn, under whose leadership Labour faced a major defeat in the 2019 general election. Credited with moving Labour towards the political centre and reviving its electability, he will lead the party into a general election campaign in 2024 hoping to become the first Labour Prime Minister since 2010.

We will not have a full understanding of the Starmerite policy programme until Labour publishes its election manifesto next year. Starmer has, however, unveiled his [five missions](#), including securing the highest sustained growth in the G7 and building an NHS fit for the future.

On life sciences, a [leaked Labour policy framework](#) gives us a flavour of the party's approach. Labour will look to invest at least 3% of GDP into R&D, reform the British Business Bank to support scaling SMEs, and create a '[comprehensive innovation and adoption strategy](#)' to capitalise on the strength of UK life sciences.

Before entering politics, Starmer was a barrister, rising to become Director of Public Prosecutions from 2008 until 2013. He is the Member for Holborn and St Pancras and has been since 2015.

Rachel Reeves MP – Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer



Rachel Reeves was made Shadow Chancellor in May 2021, replacing Anneliese Dodds. She has since become a driving force behind Labour's new economic vision, upholding financial discipline and resisting unfunded spending commitments through what she has coined '[securonomics](#)'.

Building upon her earlier career at the Bank of England and Halifax bank, Reeves has developed a reputation as a knowledgeable and dependable economist. She has spoken of the importance of long-termism and 'iron-clad fiscal rules', suggesting that Labour would place greater emphasis on industrial strategy.

In a speech earlier in 2023, she described UK life sciences as 'operating at the very edge of possibility', [hinting that Labour would champion our sector](#), for which she claimed Gordon Brown's government sowed the seeds.

Before becoming Shadow Chancellor, Reeves served as Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee between 2017 and 2020. She was first elected as the MP for Leeds West in 2010, serving in Ed Miliband's Shadow Cabinet as Chief Secretary to the Treasury (2011-2013) and Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (2013-2015). She holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford and a Masters in Economics from LSE.

Darren Jones MP – Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury



Darren Jones was promoted to Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury as part of Keir Starmer's September 2023 reshuffle. Having only become an MP in 2017, he has quickly risen up the Labour ranks.

Jones made a name for himself as Chair of the Business and Trade Committee between 2020 and 2023. He also sat on the Science and Technology Committee between 2017 and 2021.

Jones was [rumoured](#) to be vying with Shadow Culture Secretary Lucy Powell MP for the new role of Shadow Science Secretary, which ultimately went to Peter Kyle MP instead.

Jones holds a degree in Human Biosciences from Plymouth University. He worked as a solicitor for BT before being elected to Parliament as the Member for Bristol North West in 2017.

Jonathan Reynolds MP – Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade



Jonathan Reynolds has been the Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade since 2021. Retaining his job during Starmer's September 2023 reshuffle, he will form a part of Labour's top team should they enter government in 2024.

Reynolds has shown a keen interest in supporting UK SMEs, including those in the life sciences. The BIA met with Reynolds as part of our 2022 Parliament Day. He also [spoke](#) at the ABPI's Conference in April, calling for stronger industrial strategy to maintain the ecosystem that enabled the UK's COVID-19 vaccine rollout and committing to keeping successful organisations like the Life Sciences Council. This engagement is part of a broader campaign to improve the Labour Party's standing with business.

Reynolds has served in a number of roles in Parliament, including as PPS to Ed Miliband as Leader of the Opposition (2011-13), Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury (2016-20), and Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (2020-21). He was also Chair of the Science and Technology Committee between 2010 and 2012.

Reynolds has been the Labour/Co-operative MP for Stalybridge and Hyde since 2010. He holds a degree in Politics and Modern History from the University of Manchester and worked as a solicitor before entering politics.

Peter Kyle MP – Shadow Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology



Peter Kyle was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology in September 2023 as part of Keir Starmer's reshuffle. His appointment marked a decision by the Labour leadership to shadow Sunak's DSIT for the first time, raising hopes that Labour will have a Cabinet-level Science Secretary should they win power in 2024.

Kyle and Starmer announced the appointment with a visit to AstraZeneca's site in Macclesfield, which Kyle [described](#) as 'an amazing chance to glimpse what life sciences contributes to our country'.

Kyle previously served as the Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (2021-2023), as well as being a member of the Business Select Committee from 2015 to 2020.

He has been the Member for Hove since 2015, previously working in the charity sector and as a special adviser.

Chi Onwurah MP – Shadow Minister for Science, Research and Innovation



Chi Onwurah has been the Shadow Minister for Science, Research and Innovation since 2016, a role which now sits in Peter Kyle's Shadow DSIT.

She has extensive experience in the sector and life sciences specifically, meeting with BIA members at our 2023 and 2022 Parliament Days. Onwurah regularly puts questions to the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology in Parliament, including on [Horizon Europe](#) and the progress towards the [Life Sciences Vision](#).

In addition to her shadow ministerial brief, Onwurah Chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Diversity and Inclusion in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Onwurah has been the Member for Newcastle Upon Tyne Central since 2010, securing a 32.8% majority in 2019. She holds a BEng in Electrical Engineering from Imperial and worked in engineering and later at Ofcom before entering Parliament.

Wes Streeting MP – Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



Wes Streeting became Shadow Health Secretary in November 2021, replacing Jonathan Ashworth MP. He is chiefly responsible for enacting Keir Starmer’s [mission](#) to ‘Build an NHS fit for the future’.

Streeting has spoken about the importance of reforming the NHS, saying in his [Conference speech](#) last year that ‘if we don’t modernise and change the NHS, it will become unsustainable’. In particular, he has [spoken about](#) the importance of prevention within the NHS and pledged to improve the UK’s clinical trial landscape. Streeting has led an extensive campaign of engagement with business and the life sciences specifically, leading to [some accusations](#) that he is in favour of privatising the NHS.

Streeting’s previous shadow ministerial roles include as Shadow Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury in 2020 and Shadow Secretary of State for Child Poverty in 2021. He has been [tipped](#) as a future leader of the Labour Party.

Before entering politics, Streeting was President of the National Union of Students (NUS) between 2008 and 2010 and later worked at Stonewall and the centre-left thinktank Progress. He has been the Member for Ilford North since 2015 and holds a degree in History from the University of Cambridge.

Summary of Ministers and policymakers relevant to the life science sector

Department	Position	Holder	Relevant responsibility
Number 10	Prime Minister	Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP	
	Downing Street Chief of Staff	Liam Booth-Smith	Senior aide to the Prime Minister
	Deputy Chief of Staff (Policy)	Will Tanner (Policy), Rupert Yorke (Political)	
	Deputy Chief of Staff (Political)	Rupert Yorke	
	PPS to the Prime Minister	Craig Williams MP	
	Head of Policy, Policy & Briefing Unit	Eleanor Shawcross	Adviser to the Prime Minister on overall government policy
	Chief Economic Adviser	Douglas McNeill	Economic policy
	Special Adviser to the Prime Minister: Health	Bill Morgan	Adviser to the PM on health
	Special Adviser to the Prime Minister: Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	Nick Park	Adviser to the PM on BEIS.
Cabinet Office	Deputy Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Secretary of State in the Cabinet Office	Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP	Oversight of Cabinet work on science, technology, and innovation; driving delivery of Government's priorities; oversight of all Cabinet Office policy
	PPS to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Ruth Edwards MP, Peter Gibson MP, and James Daly MP	Supporting the work of the Minister for the Cabinet Office

	Parliamentary Secretary	Alex Burghart MP	Day-to-day management of Government functions; Government Commercial Function; Government Digital Service; COVID-19 inquiry; Government Business Services; legislation including secondary legislation and PBL
	Paymaster General	Rt Hon Jeremy Quin MP	Delivery of the Government's efficiency programme; Civil Service modernisation and reform; public bodies
HM Treasury (HMT)	Chancellor of the Exchequer	Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP	
	PPS to the Chancellor	<i>Unknown</i>	
	PPS to the Ministerial Team, HM Treasury	Paul Howell MP	
	Special Advisor to the Chancellor	Adam Smith, Adam Memon, Cameron Brown	
	PPS to the CST	Anthony Mangnall MP	
	Chief Secretary to the Treasury (CST)	John Glen MP	Tax credits; spending reviews; public sector pay and pensions; procurement; capital investment; spending issues related to trade; skills; state pensions.
	Financial Secretary to the Treasury (FST)	Victoria Atkins MP	The UK tax system including business taxation, international tax, and the Finance Bill; trade policy; HMRC; retained EU Law; Investment Zones and Freeports.
	Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (XST)	Gareth Davies MP	Growth and productivity (including skills, migration, investment zones, economic regulation, and the digital economy); energy, environment, and climate taxes
Economic Secretary to the Treasury (EST)	Andrew Griffith MP	Financial services policy, including financial conduct, capital markets, competitiveness, and financial stability; pensions tax policy; the British Business Bank and British Patient Capital.	

Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT)	Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology	Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP	Overall responsibility for DSIT, including skills and talent, regulation, research bureaucracy, the overall R&D budget, UKRI, and ARIA.
	Special Adviser to the Science Secretary	Sam Hamilton, Tom Skinner & Laura Wright	Policy and Comms
	PPS to the Science Secretary	Paul Bristow MP	
	Minister of State (Minister for Science, Research and Innovation)	George Freeman MP	Life sciences , international science and research, domestic science and research ecosystem, Horizon Europe, Innovation Strategy, quantum, engineering biology , regulation of innovation, ARIA, UKRI, Government Office for Technology Transfer (GOTT).
	Minister of State (Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure)	Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP	Digital infrastructure, data, and data security.
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy)	Paul Scully MP	Tech policy (including skills), online safety, infrastructure
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for AI and Intellectual Property)	Viscount Camrose	All DSIT business in the Lords, AI , intellectual property, cyber. Responsibility for the IPO and Office for Artificial Intelligence.
Health and Social Care (DHSC)	Secretary of State for Health and Social Care	Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP	
	Special Adviser to the Health Secretary	Macer Hall, Iain Carter, Lionel Zetter, Clarence Mitchell, Rob Ede	
	PPS to the Health Secretary	Angela Richardson MP	
	PPS to the Ministerial Team	Duncan Baker MP	
	Minister of State (Minister for Health and Secondary Care)	Will Quince MP	NHS secondary care; secondary care workforce; winter planning; NHS Long Term Plan; research (including genomics and NIHR); life sciences ; medicines and medicines regulation; sponsorship of NICE, MHRA, and HRA.

	Minister of State (Minister for Social Care)	Helen Whately MP	Adult social care; health and care integration; dementia and long-term conditions; major diseases; rare diseases ; COVID-19 vaccine licensing.
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Primary Care and Public Health)	Neil O'Brien MP	Primary care; blood, transplant and organs; UKHSA; vaccines (COVID-19 vaccine deployment and routine immunisations); Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID); long COVID; AMR ; sponsorship of NHSBT and FSA.
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Mental Health and Women's Health Strategy)	Maria Caulfield MP	Women's health; maternity services; DHSC litigation; mental health; disabilities; patient experience; sponsorship of CQC, HTA, HFEA and others.
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for the Lords)	Nick Markham CBE	NHS capital, land and estates; data and technology; NHS finance; Lords' business; sponsorship of NHSE, NHS Digital, and NHS Counter Fraud Authority.
Business and Trade (DBT)	Secretary of State for Business and Trade	Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP	Overall responsibility for the department, including WTO, G7 and G20 meetings.
	Special Advisor to the Business Secretary	Sonia Zvedeniuk, Joanna Thomas, Dylan Sharpe	Policy and media
	PPS to the Business Secretary	Jane Stevenson MP	
	PPS to the Ministerial Team	Theo Clarke MP	
	Minister of State (Minister for Industry and Economic Security)	Nusrat Ghani MP	Advanced manufacturing ; sustainability and infrastructure; materials; economic security; retained EU law ; global supply chains.
	Minister of State (Minister for International Trade)	Nigel Huddleston MP	Overall free trade agreement (FTA) and market access strategy; trade remedies; tariffs and disputes; trade envoys.
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Exports)	Lord Offord of Garvel	Export strategy; supporting SMEs to export ; trade missions ; free trade agreements (FTA) utilisation.
	Minister of State (Minister for Regulatory Reform)	The Earl of Minto	Cross-government regulatory reform ; better regulation.

	Minister of State (Minister for Investment)	Lord Johnson of Lainston	Investment strategy ; investment promotion across all sectors; investor relationship management; Office for Investment.
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business)	Kevin Hollinrake MP	Small business; scale up strategy ; access to finance ; consumer and competition policy; levelling up and regional growth; Competition & Markets Authority (CMA)
Education (DfE)	Secretary of State for Education	Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP	Apprenticeships in skills; further education; higher education
	Special Advisor to the Education Secretary	Rory Gribbell, Lawrence Abel	Policy and Comms
	Minister of State (Minister for Skills, Further and Higher Education)	Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP	Overall strategy for post-16 education; T Levels; apprenticeships and traineeships; further education workforce; local skills improvement plans
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister of State for Schools)	Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP	Curriculum; digital strategy and technology in education (EdTech)
Home Office	Secretary of State for the Home Department	Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP	
	Minister of State (Minister for Immigration)	Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP	Legal migration (including UK points-based system, current and future visa policy, Home Office interests in free trade agreements) and illegal migration and asylum.
	Minister of State (Minister for Security)	Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MBE VR MP	Domestic state threats; cyber crime; economic crime
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Lords Minister)	Lord Murray of Blidworth	Migration and borders legislation; EU Settlement Scheme; Northern Ireland Protocol
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	Lord Sharpe of Epsom OBE	Animal research ; analysis, science and research; digital and technology
Defra	Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP	

Minister of State (Minister for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs)	Rt Hon Lord Benyon	Biosecurity and borders; animal welfare; green finance.
Minister of State (Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries)	Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP	Agri-science and innovation.
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Natural Environment and Land Use)	Trudy Harrison MP	Climate change adaptation
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience)	Rebecca Pow MP	Resources and waste; environmental regulation; Environmental Agency