

Supporting Research in the NHS Consultation
NHS England
4N04 Quarry House
Leeds
LS2 7UE

1 February 2018

RE: Support Research in the NHS Consultation

Dear Ms Hughes,

I am the Chief Executive of the BioIndustry Association (BIA), the trade association for innovative UK bioscience businesses. Our members are responsible for over 90% of biotech medicines currently in clinical development in the UK. Our goal is to secure the UK's position as a global hub and as the best location for innovative research and commercialisation, enabling our world-leading research base to deliver healthcare solutions that can truly make a difference to people's lives.

A world-class clinical research environment is essential to achieving this goal. We strongly welcome NHS England's consultation on supporting research in the NHS. Clinical research is a highly competitive global enterprise. With a respectable clinical infrastructure and ready access to patients via a single integrated healthcare system, the UK has a strong global reputation for the delivery of high-value quality studies. The UK also has a formidable reputation for having a favourable regulatory environment with the MHRA at the forefront of supporting innovative clinical development.

However, one often cited drawback of the UK clinical research environment from our community has been that the system is overly bureaucratic. The MHRA and HRA are addressing this and approval times are becoming competitive with other countries. However, despite this, member companies often express to us that the current contracting mechanism within the NHS is overly bureaucratic, lengthy, and inconsistent. As a result, the overall time it takes to open a clinical study compared to other countries is too long. It is imperative that the UK makes the set-up of clinical studies as seamless and fast as possible to continue to improve our competitive edge in clinical research, especially with the uncertainties posed by Brexit. We very much hope that this consultation exercise and lead to positive change on the ground.

The BIA welcomes the opportunity to submit our views on these critical issues and we have also encouraged our members to respond individually to the online questionnaire.

Your sincerely,



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