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Planning

## **OLS: Respiratory Disease Strategic Partnership**

Department of Health & Social Care

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

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## **Scope**

### **Description**

This general information notice is published to provide information about how the Office for Life Sciences (OLS), on behalf of the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), will be engaging interested parties to explore strategic partnership opportunities. OLS are a joint directorate between DHSC, the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology, and the Department for Business and Trade.

Working with and on behalf of DHSC, OLS are seeking to engage with interested parties in sectors including - but not limited to - the pharmaceutical, MedTech, research and data sectors that can help us to improve respiratory outcomes in the UK via significant investment in data infrastructure, research and development, and clinical pathways.

To support HMG's ambition to improve respiratory outcomes in the UK, we are exploring potential future collaboration opportunities with OLS, DHSC, other organisations in the UK Health Family (including NHS England), and the Devolved Administrations to tackle a number of challenges including, but not limited to:

- strengthening the UK's data infrastructure for respiratory research,
- accelerating research and development (R&D) for respiratory disease in the UK, and
- optimising clinical pathways to improve early and accurate diagnosis as well as outcomes for respiratory disease in the UK.

This early market engagement is for exploratory information gathering only, in that it will not result in the award of a "public contract" (within the meaning of the Procurement Act 2023). OLS will consider opportunities including financial investment as well as collaboration on a "contribution in kind" basis. This could provide the basis for interested parties to, for example, help shape approaches to UK respiratory research and data strategies, or engage in policy development. We wish to hear from interested parties who can help to support HMG's ambition to improve respiratory outcomes in the UK, including but not limited to:

- Transforming respiratory health outcomes, driving system-wide benefits and stimulating economic growth in the UK;
- Enabling new expertise, insight or capacity in the design and creation of new data services, R&D pipelines and/or clinical pathways;
- Bringing pharmaceutical and/or other healthcare expertise to help address priority issues in respiratory health.

We are looking for interested parties who can bring:

- Long-term commitment - A commitment to a long-term strategic partnership with HMG focussed on transforming health outcomes, driving system-wide benefits and stimulating economic growth across the UK.
- Significant investment - Multi-million-pound financial and/or significant in-kind investment, which could include but not be limited to datasets, analytic capabilities, technical expertise, or trial infrastructure, into improving respiratory outcomes in the UK.
- Relevant expertise - Access to expertise in the design and creation of new data services, R&D pipelines and/or clinical pathways or other relevant fields. Also, access to pharmaceutical and/or other healthcare expertise to help address priority issues in respiratory health.

In return, OLS may:

- Convene stakeholders across government, NHS, academia, the third sector and wider industry implementing bespoke governance where appropriate.

- Provide investment and/or co-investment into improving respiratory outcomes across the UK.
- Enable high-profile visibility through joint publicity with Government and NHS.
- Consult industry partners on the policy environment around improving respiratory outcomes across the UK and more widely as relevant to the strategic partnership.

For more details, please see the full Preliminary Market Engagement Notice here:  
<https://atamis-1928.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/0O000000rwim/a/Sr000001bRyL/XzQidxAMdULfHARsJ30bZ99noSAgCW7xwIm9xv762Ns>

Those wishing to participate in the engagement process should register their interest by completing and submitting the questionnaire at the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MIwnYaiRMUyMH-9N6Jc6HD5FeWMrqfNMII-J0y-poM1UQ1BYNTIn1kzMUE3Q0ZCUDVEQUdKWUpGWS4u>

The closing date for responses is at 12:00pm on Monday 9 February 2026. We reserve the right not to accept responses received after this deadline.

## **Total value (estimated)**

- £0 excluding VAT
- £0 including VAT

## **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 12 January 2026 to 9 February 2026
- 29 days

## **Main procurement category**

Services

## CPV classifications

- 85100000 - Health services
- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services
- 85140000 - Miscellaneous health services
- 85145000 - Services provided by medical laboratories
- 73100000 - Research and experimental development services
- 73200000 - Research and development consultancy services
- 72000000 - IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support
- 72250000 - System and support services
- 72300000 - Data services
- 33600000 - Pharmaceutical products
- 33100000 - Medical equipments

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## Engagement

### Engagement deadline

9 February 2026

### Engagement process description

#### OLS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Life Sciences Sector Plan sets out an ambition for the Government to land at least one major Life Sciences strategic partnership per year over the spending review period. OLS define strategic partnerships as bespoke, formal, mutually beneficial agreements

between HMG and one or more organisations, based on a shared set of ambitions. These strategic partnerships are expected to:

- drive a step change in health outcomes,
- stimulate economic growth, and
- drive system-wide benefits.

Previous strategic partnerships have included:

- A strategic partnership with BioNTech which will see up to 10,000 UK patients receive personalised cancer therapies by 2030. BioNTech have plans to invest a further up to £1 billion over 10 years to set up R&D hubs in Cambridge and London.
- A £279 million strategic partnership with Lilly to tackle major health challenges includes £35 million in grant funding from Lilly, matched by £50 million in Government funding, to deliver the Obesity Pathway Innovation Programme - evaluating novel, innovative models of care for obesity management in community settings.

## RESPIRATORY DISEASE

Despite significant academic and clinical advancements, respiratory outcomes in the UK have stagnated over the past 15 years. Respiratory diseases remain the third leading cause of death in England, affecting 1 in 5 people and costing the NHS in the UK over £11 billion annually. Asthma and Lung UK have estimated that the total cost of lung conditions to the UK economy is up to £188 billion per year. Respiratory disease is closely linked to deprivation, with significantly higher rates of illness and premature death in the most disadvantaged communities.

This market engagement is focused on exploring how these issues might be addressed across the UK. In England, respiratory disease has been identified as a priority area for redesigning outpatient care in the 10 Year Health Plan (10YHP) and is also a significant area of focus for the "shifts" identified in the plan, particularly the shifts from hospital to community and from sickness to prevention.

OLS are keen to hear from respondents in relation to how they can best help support HMG's ambition to improve respiratory outcomes in the UK. OLS have worked across government, with industry, as well as charitable and academic stakeholders to identify three initial key areas where strategic partnership with industry has the potential to have a transformative impact on respiratory health outcomes, improve the respiratory R&D infrastructure in the UK and deliver economic growth: strengthening data infrastructure; accelerating research and development; optimising clinical pathways.

Respondents do not need to answer questions for each pillar and may focus their response to a single pillar if this is the only pillar relevant to their organisation. OLS would also welcome hearing from respondents on any other ways in which they may be able to support HMG's ambition to improve respiratory outcomes in the UK beyond these initial three key areas.

#### Pillar 1: Strengthen Data Infrastructure

**Challenge:** Respiratory-specific and general health data, as well as wider data (e.g., biomarkers, spirometry results, patient outcomes), are variably collected in primary and secondary healthcare data, and other data sources are variably connected. Routine and updated linkage across datasets such as economic (e.g., disability, household income) and environmental (e.g., air quality) are not currently formed.

**Opportunity:** Develop linked NHS and real-world data and/or undertake federated analytics with standardised curation and definitions and streamlined governance (e.g., building on HDR UK's BREATHE Hub now the Respiratory Data Science Catalyst). This would enable risk stratification, population health management, and targeted interventions as well as articulating benefit realisations. This high-quality data infrastructure would enable a broad range of research and make the UK a significantly more attractive destination for further industry investment/R&D. This would ultimately allow clinicians to make better informed decisions and result in more targeted care for patients.

**Potential delivery route:** Under this pillar, we would seek to embed respiratory analytic capacity within organisations which hold relevant data and provide dedicated leadership and governance. Indicative delivery routes could include but not be limited to:

- Aligning with the development of the UK-wide Health Data Research Service to ensure interoperability and streamlined access to data.
- Boosting capability of existing research infrastructure across the UK health data landscape including:
  - o Building on and scaling up the work of the existing HDR UK Respiratory Data Science Catalyst.
  - o Building on NHS Research Secure Data Environments (SDEs) and other SDEs across the UK to enhance availability and linkage of primary, secondary care, and imaging data and the national lung cancer screening dataset. Subsequently also consider opportunities to feed in other data sources such as air pollution, social care, economic participation and housing.
  - o Targeted public engagement to ensure inclusive and effective community reach in areas of low socio-economic status, including high-density housing and inter-generational living.

o Ability to scale the NHS DigiTrials recruitment service supporting clinical trials in the UK. This would include access to DigiTrials feasibility, outcomes and communication services.

## Pillar 2: Accelerate Research and Development

Challenge: Respiratory disease has less R&D funding when compared to other diseases of similar impact, and new diagnostic tools and treatments are needed to improve outcomes for a significant subset of patients, for example uncontrolled exacerbations in people living with asthma and COPD.

Opportunity: Increase public and private investment into world-leading respiratory research assets. In particular, there is potential to leverage AI and modern approaches to trials to identify new treatable traits, drug targets and diagnostics. There is also an opportunity to improve R&D infrastructure for respiratory disease, increasing trial participation and embedding clinical research in care delivery. We could also explore with any potential partner(s) how we can align with the Asthma and Lung UK Grand Challenges which set out priority areas for respiratory R&D in the UK.

Potential delivery route: To be determined based on the co-developed scope of the strategic partnership.

## Pillar 3: Optimise Clinical Pathways

Challenge: Despite good progress in the space, late and inequitable diagnoses as well as highly variable care pathways for people with respiratory disease, in particular asthma and COPD, impact on clinical outcomes. Improvements across clinical pathways can substantially reduce avoidable exacerbations, hospitalisations, and deaths.

Opportunity: Work in partnership to develop a set of high-impact interventions (ideally delivered by integrated neighbourhood teams and coordinated at system level) to equitably and timely:

- Ensure early and accurate diagnosis of respiratory disease, recognising the opportunity provided by lung cancer screening to identify a wider set of lung conditions and enable innovative new diagnostic tools.
- Deliver effective risk stratification enabling the early identification and management of at-risk patients, promoting targeted interventions leading to reduced system strain.
- Optimise of treatment for people with respiratory conditions, particularly COPD and asthma, through timely and equitable delivery of guideline-based pathways of care.
- Identify and treat people with severe disease likely to benefit from advanced therapies.

Potential delivery route: In England, this work could potentially be delivered through an expansion of the existing Respiratory Transformation Partnership (RTP). Interested parties with deep respiratory expertise and existing UK clinical networks could add value to RTP delivery, for example in biologics optimisation, severe asthma pathways, digital integration, or accelerated diagnostic adoption. For example, this could include wider work on elective pathways, addressing exacerbations, and hospital flows.

Should you need to seek clarification on any aspect of this notice, please contact the OLS Investment Partnerships Team at: [investmentpartnerships@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk](mailto:investmentpartnerships@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk)

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## **Contracting authority**

### **Department of Health & Social Care**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMQG-9965-CHZR

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United Kingdom

Email: [investmentpartnerships@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk](mailto:investmentpartnerships@officeforlifesciences.gov.uk)

Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Organisation type: Public authority - central government