

Box D: Life Sciences

The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) was set up in January providing an example of Government's active approach to industrial policy in the life sciences. The Life Sciences Blueprint, published on 14 July 2009 sets out a package of measures to transform the UK environment for life sciences companies. The actions fall in four key areas:

- The NHS as an innovation champion;
- Building a more integrated life sciences industry;
- Access to finance and stimulating investment;
- Marketing the UK life sciences industry overseas.

More details can be found in the Life Sciences Blueprint:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/innovation/business_support/ols

6.5 Digital Britain

The Digital Britain Report⁴ (published June 2009) sets out the Government's vision for:

- Ensuring the country has the modern communications infrastructure we need;
- Enabling Britain to be a global centre for creative industries in the digital age;
- Ensuring people have the capabilities and skills to flourish in the digital economy; and,
- Making sure we modernise and improve our own service to the taxpayer through use of digital technology.

The Digital Britain Report sets out a comprehensive list of actions in pursuit of these goals.

The SIF is funding some key elements of this, contributing to delivering universal availability of broadband (with joint funding of around £200 million

⁴ http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/broadcasting/6216.aspx