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| market consultation |
| Medicines Manufacturing Skills |
| 6 |
| 31st January 2023 |

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| Market Consultation document details This market consultation has been issued on Contracts Finder <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder> by:Office for Life Sciences (on behalf of)Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET  |

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# BEIS Foreword

##

First, thank you for your interest in this market consultation (“Consultation”) which is being issued to support the delivery of [Life Sciences Vision](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-sciences-vision) Skills overarching ambition. Our ambition is to develop a strong talent pool across industry, academia, and the NHS. We want to ensure that the Life Sciences sector has access to the variety of skills it needs to support innovation and ensure that entrepreneurs feel they can access the human capital required to grow their companies in the UK. Specifically, this consultation seeks to inform policy development to ensure there is a sustainable flow of qualified staff available to undertake Life Sciences manufacturing roles and support the formation and expansion of clusters.

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# General information

## Purpose of this market consultation

The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ("BEIS") (for the purposes of this Early Engagement Notice acting through the Office for Life Sciences ("OLS")), is conducting this Consultation ("Consultation") on medicines manufacturing skills provision in the UK. The scope of the Consultation defines skills as “apprenticeships, undergraduate and PHD recruitment and placement; vocational (including technical skills) training and the conduct of schools engagement”; and Medicines Manufacturing (“MM”) as “the manufacture of drugs for human use, including vaccines and therapeutics”.

This Consultation seeks to gather views on the demand for and the effectiveness of MM training provision, specifically in terms of:

a) meeting the needs of individuals to acquire MM training;

b) meeting the needs of industry in training and recruiting industry ready MM personnel;

c) the appetite of current (and potential) training providers to develop MM training; and

d) views on initiatives to strengthen career pathways into MM.

**Issued**: 31st January 2023

**Respond by: 12.00 noon on 17th February 2023**

**Responses and Enquiries should be sent to:**

Email: jo.parkesnewton@officeforlifesciences.gov.ukConsultation reference: Medicine Manufacturing Skills

Tel: 07553 525656

## How to respond

Your response will be most useful if it is framed in direct response to the questions in the Questionnaire within this document, but further comments and evidence are also welcome.

In addition to Questionnaire Responses (“Responses”), OLS is offering the opportunity for Contributors to attend a one-to-one on-line meeting with OLS to discuss the issues raised by the Consultation in more depth (“Consultation Meetings”) and gather the views of Contributors. Whilst it is OLS’s intention to hold Consultation Meetings with all Contributors who express an interest in so meeting, appointments will be allocated on a ‘first come first served’ basis. Organisations requesting a meeting will be asked to complete a brief survey to provide background to inform the Consultation Meeting. No additional weight will be given to Responses received from Contributors attending a Consultation Meeting.

The aim of the Consultation Meetings is to further discuss the Questionnaire. Not least to allow Contributors to provide information on aspects of the questions and answers which are not easily communicated through the Questionnaire format. However, Contributors who are unable to attend a Consultation Meeting will be able to submit documents (alongside their answers to the Questionnaire) as part of their Response. Please do not include general marketing information.

Should you ask a question in respect of the Consultation and OLS believe that the answer to that question would be of benefit to all potential Contributors, then such questions and answers will be circulated to all individuals and organisations who have expressed an interest in the Consultation. These questions and answers will also be published on the Contract Finder website. (Prior to publication (and in agreement with the Contributor), questions and answers will be anonymised and any potentially confidential information removed).

## Confidentiality and data protection

Information provided in response to this Consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information legislation (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the Consultation. It would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.

We will anonymise and summarise all responses and place this summary on the Contracts Finder website.

# Questionnaire

Please insert your answers in the row below each question. Please expand this row if more space is needed. Answers to multiple choice questions can be indicated with an ‘X’ (in the blue shaded boxes).

|  |
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| Consultation Questions |
| 1a | Do you currently obtain or are you considering obtaining Medicines Manufacturing (“MM”) training? |
|  |  | Currently obtain |
|  |  | Planning to obtain  |
|  |  | Not applicable |
| Please provide any further detail.  |
| 1b  | If you have obtained or are considering obtaining MM training, what aspects of training have you received and / or are seeking?  |
|  | Have obtained | Considering obtaining |
|  |  | Vocational (including technical skills) |  | Vocational (including technical skills) |
|  |  | Undergraduate schemes and placements  |  | Undergraduate schemes and placements |
|  |  | PHD schemes and placements  |  | PHD schemes and placements |
|  |  | Apprenticeships |  | Apprenticeships |
|  |  | Schools engagement  |  | Schools engagement |
|  |  | Other training |  | Other training |
|  |  | Not applicable  |  | Not applicable  |
| Please provide any further detail.  |

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| Consultation Questions |
| 1c | If you have obtained or are considering obtaining MM training, have you contacted the Advanced Therapies Skills Training Network (ATSTN) for support and advice? [https://www.atskillstrainingnetwork.org.uk](https://www.atskillstrainingnetwork.org.uk/) |
|  |  | Yes |
|  |  | No  |
|  |  | Not aware of ATSTN |
|  |  | Not applicable  |
| Please provide further details of the advice and support received below. |
| 1d | If you have obtained or are considering obtaining MM apprenticeships, have you contacted theAdvanced Therapies Apprenticeship Community(ATAC) for support and advice? [https://advancedtherapiesapprenticeships.co.uk](https://advancedtherapiesapprenticeships.co.uk/) |
|  |  | Yes |
|  |  | No  |
|  |  | Not aware of ATAC |
|  |  | Not applicable  |
| Please provide further details of the advice and support received below.  |
| 1e | If you have obtained or are considering obtaining MM training (entry and / or upskilling), what initiatives and / or expansion of existing initiatives would provide you with assistance?  |
|  |  | Advice on developing your training requirements  |
|  |  | Signposting to courses  |
|  |  | Free MM courses and / or grants to obtain MM training courses |
|  |  | Development of a wider choice of courses and / or training providers / formats |
|  |  | Regionally focused course provision  |
|  |  | Regional centres of excellence  |
|  |  | Electronic marketplace for course comparison and / or conduct of competitions |
|  |  | Advice and support on apprenticeships and the Apprenticeship Levy |
|  |  | Advice and support on undergraduate schemes and placements  |
|  |  | Advice and support on PHD schemes and placements  |
|  |  | Advice and support on schools placements  |
|  |  | Advice and support for vocational placements  |
|  |  | Training provider and / or training quality assurance |
|  |  | Any other initiatives that may support you. |
|  |  | Not applicable  |
| Please provide any further detail, in particular any details on any issues that you have encountered that the above initiatives may address e.g. poor quality training, issues with sourcing appropriate courses in respect of upskilling and / or entry, affordability etc.  |
| Please also identify (if possible), which three (3) initiatives would potentially provide you with the most assistance.  |

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| Consultation Questions |
| 2. | Please provide your views on any initiatives which you think may help to strengthen career pathways into MM and better meet the needs of individuals to acquire training. |
|  |  | Better visibility of MM career pathways at school, college, university  |
|  |  | More vocational placements  |
|  |  | More schools placements  |
|  |  | More apprenticeships  |
|  |  | More undergraduate schemes and placements  |
|  |  | More PHD schemes and placements |
|  |  | Range of career pathways / varied qualification requirements  |
|  |  | Affordability of training provision  |
|  |  | Any other initiatives |
|  |  | No issues with career pathways identified  |
|  |  | Further information on existing pathway provisions required to state views  |
| Please provide any further detail. |
| 3. | If you have recently recruited or are seeking to recruit MM qualified staff, did you encounter any difficulties with attracting sufficient MM qualified applicants?  |
| Please provide any further detail below: |
| 4a | Do you currently offer / facilitate or are you planning to offer / facilitate MM training to the marketplace?  |
|  |  | Currently offer / facilitate  |
|  |  | Planning to offer / facilitate  |
|  |  | Not applicable  |
| Please provide any further detail below:  |
| 4b  | If you currently offer / facilitate or plan to offer / facilitate MM training, what aspects of training do you currently offer / facilitate and / or are planning to offer / facilitate?  |
|  | Currently offer | Planning to offer |
|  |  | Vocational (including technical skills) |  | Vocational (including technical skills) |
|  |  | Vocational placements  |  | Vocational placements  |
|  |  | Undergraduate schemes and placements  |  | Undergraduate schemes and placements |
|  |  | PHD schemes and placements  |  | PHD schemes and placements |
|  |  | Apprenticeships |  | Apprenticeships |
|  |  | Schools engagement  |  | Schools engagement |
|  |  | Schools placements  |  | Schools placements |
|  |  | Other training |  | Other training |
|  |  | Not applicable |  | Not applicable  |
| Please provide any further detail below: |
| 4c | If you currently offer / facilitate or plan to offer / facilitate MM training to the marketplace, did you contact the Advanced Therapies Skills Training Network (ATSTN) for support and advice? [https://www.atskillstrainingnetwork.org.uk](https://www.atskillstrainingnetwork.org.uk/) |
|  |  | Yes  |
|  |  | No  |
|  |  | Not aware of the ATSTN |
|  |  | Not applicable  |
| Please provide further details of the advice and support received below. |
| 4d | If you currently offer / facilitate or plan to offer / facilitate MM apprenticeships, have you contacted theAdvanced Therapies Apprenticeship Community(ATAC) for support and advice? [https://advancedtherapiesapprenticeships.co.uk](https://advancedtherapiesapprenticeships.co.uk/) |
|  |  | Yes |
|  |  | No  |
|  |  | Not aware of ATAC  |
|  |  | Not applicable |
| Please provide further details of the advice and support received below. |
| 4e | If you currently offer / facilitate or plan to offer / facilitate MM training, what initiatives would provide you with assistance?  |
|  |  | Support and mentoring to develop your capacity and capability |
|  |  | Grants to develop MM training courses |
|  |  | Electronic marketplace for course comparison and / or conduct of competitions |
|  |  | Focus on regionally focused course provision  |
|  |  | Regional centres of excellence |
|  |  | Advice on apprenticeship creation and the Apprenticeship Levy |
|  |  | Advice and support on undergraduate schemes and placements  |
|  |  | Advice and support on PHD schemes and placements  |
|  |  | Advice and support on schools placements  |
|  |  | Advice and support on vocational placements  |
|  |  | Information on potential demand for MM training |
|  |  | Being able to become an accredited training provider and / or training quality assurance |
|  |  | Any other initiatives that may support you.  |
|  |  | Not applicable  |
| Please provide any further detail below. In particular, identify any details on any issues that you have encountered that the above initiatives may address. e.g. issues with course take-up, difficult to understand demand, development affordability etc.  |
| Please also identify (if possible), which three (3) initiatives would potentially provide you with the most assistance. |
| 5. | If need(s) were identified in the marketplace, would you also be interested in submitting a grant application in respect of providing a centralised or regional co-ordinating role in terms of advice and support for MM training? |
|  |  | Yes | If yes, are you experienced in submitting grant applications?  |  | Yes |  | No |
|  |  | No  |
|  |  | Potentially interested, but would need more information in respect of what would be involved  |
|  |  | Not Applicable  |
| Please provide any further detail below: |
| 6. | Please provide any further information and / or views in respect of MM training that you have not had the opportunity to express elsewhere in this Questionnaire.  |
|  |
| 7. | Please let us know if you consider any of the information in your Response as confidential and if so, please detail the reasons why you consider this to be the case. |
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| Consultation Questions |
| 8a | (How would you describe your organisation (if applicable) e.g. academic institution; public sector; micro, small, medium or large enterprise; social enterprise; not for profit organisation; registered charity etc. Do provide further information on your organisation (in the space below) if you think that this will help us contextualise your Response).  |
|  |
| 8b | Current annual turnover (if applicable)  |
|  |
| 8c | Current staff / employee numbers (if applicable) |
|  |
| 8d | Postcode of registered / head office / home address |
|  |
| 8e | Name of your organisation (if applicable) |
|  |
| 8f | Contact name |
|  |
| 8g | Contact email |
|  |
| 8h | Contact Telephone Number |
|  |
| **Thank you for completing the Questionnaire. Your contribution is appreciated.** |