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- New Draft Rules re Clinical Trials – “clearer rules, better protection”

**REGIONAL ISSUES**

*Aberdeen City Council*

**Aberdeen International Business Park:** On 13 June the Aberdeen City Council’s Development Management Sub-Committee approved a number of conditions relating to this proposed development. Planning permission in principle for a business park and associated infrastructure works was granted under delegated powers in November. The development concept for phase one is to provide a high quality office campus set in an attractive park environment, which will be occupied by Aker Solutions. It will include a building with floor space of 32,249 square metres, which will be broken down to 27,250 sq metres of office space, 2,347 metres of leisure space, including dining and leisure space, a crèche, fitness facilities and a small shop.

**Harriet Harman MP, Shadow Deputy Prime Minister:** on 14 June Harriet Harman, Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sports, visited the Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre to learn more about the business’ successes and contribution to the region’s business tourism and culture.

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REGIONAL ISSUES

Aberdeenshire Council

● Option for third primary school at Portlethen: Proposals for the future of educational provision in Portlethen were considered by members of the Policy & Resources Committee on 13 June. Steps will now be taken to source the funding needed for the planned £12.9 million primary school for Hillside, which could be completed by June 2016. An assessment study into future primary education in the greater Portlethen catchment area was carried out to look into the issue of extensive housing development at Hillside, which lies to the west of the A90, the opposite side of the trunk road from Portlethen’s existing primary schools. The recent School Estate Review predicts that the school roll at Fishermoss Primary will fall to 214 (currently 261) in 2018, while the school roll at Portlethen Primary will rise to 646 (currently 309) in the same period.

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PARLIAMENTARY & CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Scottish Parliament

The Health and Sport Committee of the Scottish Parliament will visit Stirling to see a range of initiatives that are tackling health issues across the city, as part of events being planned for Parliament Day, which is to be held in Stirling on 21 June.

The Committee will visit Hillview Community Centre to hear about Cultenhove Opportunities Partnership, a social enterprise which is working to improve residents’ self-esteem and confidence.

The Committee will later visit Stirling Community Hospital where they will hear about Town Break Stirling, a project supporting people with dementia. MSPs will also watch pupils from Cowie Primary School perform a drama and dance presentation as part of the Max in the Middle initiative to promote healthy eating and physical activity.

The afternoon will see the Committee hold a formal meeting in Stirling Council’s city chambers, where they will take evidence on their inquiry into health inequalities from NHS Forth Valley, Stirling Council, Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise and Forth Valley College.

Scottish Parliament Motions Noted

● Motion S4M-06881 Roderick Campbell, SNP, North East Fife, Date Lodged - 06/06/2013: University of St Andrews is Top of the Class - That the Parliament congratulates the University of St Andrews on being named the best university in Scotland, and fourth in the UK overall, by The Guardian University Guide 2014; understands that the guide named it as the best in the UK for anthropology and that, along with the University of Cambridge, it was ranked joint top for history and the history of art; notes that Heriot-Watt University and the University of Edinburgh also featured in the top 20 UK institutions, and warmly welcomes this news, which demonstrates what it sees as Scotland’s finest universities living up to their excellent reputations.

● Motion S4M-06840: /
Motion S4M-06840: Jim Eadie, SNP, Edinburgh Southern, Date Lodged - 03/06/2013: Human Synthetic Blood Trials - That the Parliament congratulates Scottish scientists on being given the green light by the UK Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to manufacture stem cell therapies for clinical trial; understands that the trials and associated research will take place at the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine’s new Good Manufacturing Practice Cellular Therapy Manufacturing Facility, which is located at the Edinburgh BioQuarter; notes that synthetic blood may help end supply shortages and prevent infections being passed on through donations; further notes that the licences will permit scientists to create stem cell products to treat patients who have experienced a wide variety of other degenerative conditions, such as stroke and Parkinson’s disease, diabetes and cancer; acknowledges that synthetic blood could augment the regular blood supply, particularly in times of shortage or when there is a sudden increase in demand, and is confident that Scottish scientists will ultimately be successful in making synthetic blood a viable contributory source for a sufficient, safe and high quality blood supply.

Scottish Parliament - Chamber

Chronic Pain Services (debate on motion S4M-06746, 29/5/13) - On 29 May Parliament debated a motion in the name of Alex Neil, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing - on ensuring access to high-quality sustainable services for people living with chronic pain. The Cabinet Secretary paid tribute to campaigners on the issue. The Scottish Government estimated that about 800,000 people in Scotland suffer from chronic pain, of whom a quarter suffer from possibly life-long chronic pain syndrome; also among that number are 70,000 children. He wished to report on progress made and future plans.

Motion agreed to: “That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government’s plans for the implementation of the Scottish Service Model for Chronic Pain, which will ensure the best outcomes for the care and support of people living with chronic pain; further welcomes that the Scottish Government has committed to providing a highly specialist intensive pain management service in Scotland; notes that, prior to consultation, the NHS is working with partners, including patients and clinicians, to assess appropriate options for a Scottish intensive pain management service; also welcomes the decision of the Scottish Government to provide appropriate residential accommodation in the options for the new Scottish intensive pain management service, and further notes that each territorial NHS board in Scotland will be required to prepare and implement a service delivery plan for covering all aspects of chronic pain services, from April 2014.” See Official Report (at 20416)

Cross Party Group on Chronic Pain also met on 29 May 2013. The aim of this CPG is to raise awareness of how those with chronic pain are treated and to work for earlier and better care. The Group also aims to raise awareness of the condition amongst parliamentarians, to influence legislation and policy makers in order to improve the lives of people affected. Learn about the activities and membership of this group here

Geese (Economic Impacts) – (Mike MacKenzie, Highlands and Islands, SNP - General Question Time, 30/5/13): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to minimise the negative economic impact on farmers and crofters of the presence of large numbers of geese in the Outer and Inner Hebrides and the northern isles. (S4O-02185) - As part of his response, Minister for Environment & Climate Change Paul Wheelhouse, stated that the Scottish Government funds a number of goose-management schemes and other initiatives in the affected areas – and that it has committed more than £1 million in 2013/14 to support management of geese, and is developing a number of initiatives, including trialling adaptive management techniques. See Official Report (at 20491)

North Sea Prawn Landings (Decline) – (Angus MacDonald, Falkirk East, SNP: To ask the Scottish Government what the reasons are for the reported sharp decline in North Sea prawn landings. (S4O-02189) - The Minister for Environment and Climate Change Paul Wheelhouse stated that there is currently no conclusive explanation for the reduction in the availability of prawns in the North Sea. Scottish Government scientists advise that the reduction may either be part of a longer-term trend or is being affected by short-term factors, including the recent cold winters. Given... the importance of the species within Scotland’s marine environment, the recent reduction is clearly a concerning development. See Official Report (at 20496)

- **Group B Streptococcus Screening Programme** – (Margaret McDougall, West Scotland, Lab): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will introduce a group B streptococcus screening programme for pregnant women. (S4O-02192) - The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing [Alex Neil](#) stated that the Scottish Government is given independent advice by the United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC); in 2012 the NSC undertook a review of the policy for group B streptococcus, using all the available medical evidence on the risks and benefits of screening all pregnant women; NSC agreed that a national screening programme for group B streptococcus should not be introduced – and will continue to keep screening for group B streptococcus under review, - and will consider the policy again in 2015-16—or earlier, if significant new evidence emerges. See [Official Report (at 20498)](#)

Responsibilities of Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing: NHS, Health Service Reform, Allied Healthcare Services, Acute and Primary Services, Performance, Quality Strategy, Patient Safety, National Service Planning, NHS Workforce, NHS Pay.

Full Ministerial Responsibilities and Health Portfolio can be viewed here.

- **YOUTH SPORT** - a debate (11 June 2013) on motion S4M-06921, in the name of [Shona Robison](#), Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, on supporting a sporting nation—celebrating and building on Scotland’s success in youth sport. She stated that the debate was an opportunity for members to bring forward their ideas and suggestions, and... that she intended to publish a draft youth sport strategy in September 2013.

“Supporting a Sporting Nation, Celebrating and Building on Scotland’s Success in Youth Sport: That the Parliament acknowledges the important role that sport plays in the lives of children and young people by helping to create a lifelong habit of being active; recognises the potential that youth sport can have in improving physical and mental wellbeing and establishing sporting success in Scotland; agrees that every effort should be made to harness the motivational potential of the Commonwealth Games in promoting youth sport; notes the Scottish Government’s commitment to publish a draft youth sport strategy in September 2013, and recognises Glasgow’s bid for the Youth Olympics in 2018 as evidence of the commitment to delivering a sporting legacy.” [Supported by: Alex Neil, Michael Matheson]

The Minister stated that she was also working with NUS Scotland and the further and higher education sector to focus on making a positive impact on the future of young people through the wealth of volunteering and training opportunities that will be available in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games.

North-east MSP [Nanette Milne](#) also contributed to the debate: “Yesterday, I had the privilege of attending the installation of her royal highness the Duchess of Rothesay as chancellor of the University of Aberdeen. During the ceremony, six honorary degrees were awarded, one of which was an honorary doctorate for the great cycling athlete, Neil Fachie. Members may be aware that Neil, a science graduate of the University of Aberdeen, came to prominence at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing, when he competed in athletics before turning to cycling. Neil has the congenital eye condition retinitis pigmentosa, but despite that disability he has gone from strength to strength, his success culminating in the four gold medals that he won for Britain, breaking two world records and becoming the first Scot in the Paralympics GB team to win a gold medal at London 2012. Since then, he has become a regular ambassador for sport in schools across the country and is a proud representative of Aberdeen, Scotland and the UK. As others have said, when we discuss sport, we must not confine the discussion only to the able-bodied or ignore the influence that role models such as Neil Fachie can have on young people. Like Patricia Ferguson, I hope that sports for people with disabilities will feature in the forthcoming youth sport strategy.”

Access full debate here.

Responsibilities of Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport: Commonwealth Games, obesity, physical activity and equality.
Portfolio Question Time - Health and Wellbeing, 12/6/2013

Question Time included: Family Nurse Partnerships; NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (Meetings); Community Transport (Older People); Alcohol (Harm to Others); Swimming (Cumbernauld and Kilsyth); Heart Disease; Multiple Sclerosis National Therapy Centres; Waiting Time Target (Accident and Emergency); Cardiac Rehabilitation; Care Inspectorate (Recommendations); 20:20 Vision (National Health Service); Individual Patient Treatment Requests; Waiting Times (Forth Valley Royal Hospital); Motor Neurone Disease; Cost of Drugs (Prisoners).

Heart Disease

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (LD): To ask the Scottish Government how the national health service supports people with heart disease. (S4O-02237)

The Minister for Public Health (Michael Matheson): Through delivering the actions in our comprehensive heart disease action plan, we are seeing significant improvements in outcomes for people with heart disease. The plan focuses not just on providing the best possible hospital care, but on supporting people’s longer-term recovery in their communities.

Since 2002, there has been a 43 per cent reduction in premature coronary heart disease deaths—there was an 8 per cent drop between 2010 and 2011. An important point is that we are seeing reductions in health inequalities, with heart disease mortality dropping fastest in the most deprived areas.

Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Con): I know from last week’s meeting of the cross-party group in the Scottish Parliament on heart disease and stroke, which he attended, that the cabinet secretary is supportive of the excellent work that is done in my region by the Grampian Cardiac Rehabilitation Association and the equivalent organisation in Angus. Will the minister speak to the cabinet secretary about the possibility of voluntary organisations like that being rolled out across Scotland? Those two organisations do a fantastic job.

Michael Matheson: I agree. I am more than happy to talk to the cabinet secretary about that, as the member suggests. In my constituency, I have witnessed the quality of service that can be provided by third sector organisations such as Braveheart, which runs walking programmes for patients who are recovering from cardiac episodes. Real benefit can be gained. The way in which the NHS can best affect that in communities is to work in partnership with third sector organisations to deliver such programmes effectively for patients.

Cardiac Rehabilitation

Dennis Robertson (Aberdeenshire West) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it has given to national health service boards in relation to cardiac rehabilitation. (S4O-02240)

The Minister for Public Health (Michael Matheson): NHS boards should provide cardiac rehabilitation in line with the published clinical standards for heart disease, which were published in April 2010. Those standards state that people with heart disease should be assessed and have access to a menu-based cardiac rehabilitation programme.

Responsibilities of the Minister for Public Health include: Public Health, Health Protection, Dentistry, Healthy Working Lives, Sexual Health, Child & Maternal Health, Medical Records, Adult Care & Support, Problem Alcohol use and recovery, Social Inclusion and Historic Abuse.

General Question Time 13/6/13

Question Time included: Scottish Islands Renewables Project; Superconnected Cities Initiative (State-aid Rules); Scamming; Open Market Shared Equity Scheme; Shale Gas; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Ministry of Defence (Procurement Rules).

Shale Gas

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con): To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to exploit the potential of Scotland’s shale gas reserves. (S4O-02258)

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth (John Swinney): Proposals for coal-bed methane or shale gas production in Scotland will be studied on their merits. Each proposal will be considered through the normal planning process and under the appropriate regulatory regimes, including the Scottish Environment Protection Agency’s guidance on the regulation of shale gas and coal-bed methane, which was published in December 2012. The Scottish Government will continue to support Scottish companies in the oil and gas
supply chain to utilise their world-leading skills, knowledge and expertise in the development of opportunities that are presented across Europe and further afield.

Murdo Fraser: This week’s report from the United States Energy Information Administration states that the United Kingdom’s technically recoverable shale gas reserves are 26 trillion cubic feet—10 times our annual gas demand —of which a reasonable chunk is in Scotland. The Institute of Directors previously estimated that 35,000 jobs could be created from this new industry. Given that, in the US, shale gas has delivered a 50 per cent cut in wholesale energy costs, a reinindustrialisation of the economy and a cut of millions of tonnes in carbon emissions, will the Scottish Government be enthusiastic about pursuing the new opportunity?

John Swinney: As Mr Fraser knows well, the Scottish Government’s approach is designed to support and maximise sustainable investment in our economy. We will continue to take that approach. As I said, individual applications for the development of shale gas reserves will be studied on their merits and considered through the due process that the existing arrangements in Scotland provide. The Government and its regulatory authorities will give due consideration to any approaches that are made. It is essential to rely on substantive and quality information about the availability of resources and the manner and the practicalities of exploiting resources, which will be an implicit part of the assessment when each application’s merits are considered.

Responsibilities of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth include: Economy, Employment, Scottish Budget, Budgetary Monitoring, Public Sector Pay Policy, Pensions Agency (SPPA), Public Service Reform and Delivery, Efficient Government, Simplification of the Public Sector Landscape/Public Bodies/Scrutiny, Community Business and Co-operative Development, Third Sector and Social Economy, Relocation

Scottish Parliament Committee and Cross Party Groups

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Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education Report: On 13 June, the Education Secretary Michael Russell stated that **educational benefit must remain a key consideration of the school closure decision making process.** The Scottish Government’s formal response to the Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education report was delivered in the Scottish Parliament, with the vast majority of the report’s recommendations accepted. However, recommendation 20, to lessen the need to show education benefit in the consideration of a school closure, was not accepted. The Scottish Government and COSLA will now work closely together on how to reduce the number of call-in requests and explore options in the coming weeks on how to ensure the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 is working effectively, including the possibility of final decisions being taken independently. The Education Secretary further stated that he would be taking the steps necessary to implement the vast majority of the recommendations through a mixture of administrative and legislative change to ensure the policy Parliament intended when it unanimously passed the 2010 Act is effectively delivered. He intends to use the Children and Young People Bill to bring forward any legislative changes required to the Act and there will also be further guidance to improve the understanding of the process.

Access the Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education report here ➤
Access the Scottish Government’s formal response to the Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education here ➤

**Responsibilities of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning:** Teacher and school workforce issues, School infrastructure - building programme and technology, School closures, Further and Higher Education, The Scottish Funding Council, Educational attainment, Performance improvement and reform of education.

**Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture:** On 12 June Scotland’s Chief Statistician released the Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture and the Agriculture Facts And Figures pocketbook. The Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture provides an in-depth report on the sector, covering its structure and financial performance, with specific sections looking at crops, livestock, labour and some comparisons with other UK nations. It also contains an historical comparison with the census of 100 years ago. Agriculture Facts and Figures contains key Scottish agricultural statistics along with selected UK and EU comparisons, and is available as a small pocketbook. Commentary relating to the tables contained in the pocketbook is available online.

**United Kingdom Parliament – forthcoming business**

**Commons Select Committee - Business, Innovation and Skills (17 June): Implications of Scottish Independence on business; higher education & research; and postal services** (Witnesses: Business for Scotland, CBI Scotland and Federation of Small Businesses; NUS Scotland, Universities Scotland and University and College Union Scotland; Consumer Futures, Communication Workers Union and Royal Mail / Location: Senate Room, Glasgow University)

**Commons Select Committee - Transport (17 June): Cost of motor insurance: whiplash** (Witnesses: James Dalton, Assistant Director, Head of Motor and Liability, Association of British Insurers, Dominic Claydon, Director of Claims, Aviva UK, David Fisher, Catastrophic and Injury Claims Technical Manager, Axa Insurance and Steve Maddock, Director of Claims, Direct Line Group; Desmond Hudson, Chief Executive, Law Society of England and Wales, Matthew Stockwell, President, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers , Nigel Teasdale, Forum of Insurance Lawyers, Craig Budsworth, Chairman, Motor Accident Solicitors Society and Andrew Ritchie QC; Andrew Wigmore, Policy Director, Claims Standards Council, Russell Atkinson, Managing Director, National Accident Helpline and Peter Gradwell, Owner and Managing Director, Exchange Insurance Services. Location: Portcullis House)

**Commons Select Committee - Science and Technology(17 June): Digital by Default** (Witnesses: Rt Hon Francis Maude MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General. Location: Portcullis House)
Commons Select Committee - International Development (18 June): The Future of UK Development Co-operation Phase 1: Development Finance (Witnesses: Richard Manning, Chair of Board of Trustees, Institute of Development Studies, Jonathan Glennie, Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute and Elizabeth Stuart, Director of Policy and Research, Save the Children; Peter Chowla, Co-ordinator, Bretton Woods Project, Matthew Martin, Director, Development Finance International and Professor Stephany Griffith-Jones, Colombia University. Location: Palace of Westminster)

Commons Select Committee - Business, Innovation and Skills (18 June): Implications of Scottish Independence on business; higher education & research; and postal services. (Witnesses: Institute of Directors Scotland and Professor David Bell, Professor of Economics, University of Stirling; Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. Location: Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh)

Commons Select Committee - Scottish Affairs (18 June): Subject: The impact of the Bedroom Tax & other changes to housing benefit in Scotland. (Witness: Keith Dryburgh, Policy Manager, Citizens Advice Scotland. Location: Palace of Westminster)

Commons Select Committee - Political and Constitutional Reform (20 June): Role and powers of the Prime Minister: fixed-term Parliaments. (Witnesses: Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE, Director, Institute for Government; Miss Chloe Smith MP, Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, Cabinet Office. Location: Portcullis House)

Lords Select Committee - Science and Technology (18 June): Climate: Public understanding and policy implications (Witnesses: Dr Catherine Happer, Glasgow University Media Group, Professor Greg Philo, Glasgow University Media Group and Tom Sheldon, Senior Press Officer, Science Media Centre. Location: Portcullis House)

Lords Select Committee - Scottish Affairs (18 June): The Referendum on Separation for Scotland (Witnesses: Rt Hon Michael Moore MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, Sajid Javid MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Paul Doyle, Deputy Director, Devolved Countries Unit, HM Treasury and Andy Drought, Financial Services and Economic Engagement team, Scotland Office. Location: Palace of Westminster)

United Kingdom Government

Information Economy Strategy: A new strategy that will generate fresh growth opportunities for some of the UK’s most innovative technology businesses was published on 14 June. Developed in partnership with industry, the Information Economy Strategy will make it easier for businesses to access public services online, for example, by providing a single digital view of their tax affairs. It will also help 1.6 million small and medium sized businesses grow their online presence and allow them to exploit new technologies.

The Information Economy Strategy sets out a range of key actions, including:
The Information Economy Strategy sets out a range of key actions, including:

- Digitally transforming 25 of the top 50 public services over the next 300 days, including plans to give businesses a single, online view of their tax records. This will enable them to check that all of their information is in order and do simple tasks online quickly - like setting up PAYE for a new employee, reducing the need to pay for expensive specialists to navigate the tax system.
- Launching a new programme to help 1.6 million SMEs scale up their business online over the next five years. This industry-led initiative will target SMEs that either are not online, or want to improve their current online facilities so they can do things like process electronic payments, sell goods overseas and developing cloud computing.
- Publishing a data capability strategy in October 2013, developed in partnership with government, industry and academia. The strategy will build on the recommendations in Stephan Shakespeare’s review of Public Sector Information and the Prime Minister’s Council for Science and Technology’s report on algorithms, and will be published alongside the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.
- Getting ahead in the global race by establishing the world’s first facility for testing state of the art 5G mobile technology, working with industry and the University of Surrey.

### First conference of science ministers from the G8 in five years:
On 12 June David Willetts hosted the G8 science ministers at the Royal Society to look at key scientific challenges. **For the first time the meeting also included heads of national academies.** At the top of the agenda was dealing with global challenges, namely antibiotic resistance in medicine, and how governments can work together to develop new antibiotics and employ them more wisely. Following the meeting, the group issued a statement, signed by all G8 members. They agreed to work together in a global effort to develop new antibiotics and technologies for quicker diagnosis and more targeted treatments. They also discussed other pressing global challenges, including climate change, energy security and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s.

### £290 million for new leading edge research facilities:
Five new university and business partnerships are receiving over £290 million of public and private investment in research projects to drive innovation and growth, the Chancellor George Osborne announced on 6 June. **The projects will focus on physical sciences, medical research, advanced materials, pharmaceutical manufacturing and advanced manufacturing.** They will tackle global challenges like developing new treatments for cancer and ensuring advanced materials can cope under harsh conditions, including difficult to access oil and gas reservoirs. This is the latest round of projects from the £300 million UK Research Partnership Investment Fund, bringing the total number of winners to 20. Successful universities have secured at least double that amount of investment from businesses or charities, together delivering more than £1 billion of new funding for research. **The five projects, representing £72 million of public support and attracting £219 million of additional private investment, are:**

- A £33 million partnership between UCL and the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust in the Institute of Immunity and Transplantation. This will enable world-leading research and clinical trials to develop new treatments and patient therapies for a range of chronic diseases, such as cancer, HIV and diabetes.
- A £117 million partnership between the **University of Manchester**, BP plc, Rolls-Royce, AMEC, Sellafield, National Nuclear Laboratory, FEI Company, Xradia, Rapiscan Systems, AREVA, Westinghouse, EDF and TISICS to establish the Multidisciplinary Characterisation Facility. This will accelerate research into advanced materials that can operate safely under increasingly harsh conditions, such as the extraction of difficult to access oil and gas reservoirs or aero engines operating at higher temperatures.
- A £63 million partnership between the **University of Cambridge**, the Winton Programme for the Physics of Sustainability, Hitachi Ltd, the Herchel Smith Trust Fund and others to build The Maxwell Centre. This will be a centrepiece for industrial partnership in the physical sciences on the West Cambridge Science and Technology campus, increasing collaboration with SMEs and acting as a hub for doctoral training.
- A £34 million partnership between the **University of Strathclyde**, GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Novartis, Cancer Research UK and others. It will build on the EPSRC Centre for Continuous Manufacturing and Crystallisation, a world-class facility to accelerate innovative technology delivery and establish new supply chains for medicines.
- A £43 million partnership between the **University of Sheffield’s Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre** and manufacturing companies to develop the AMRC Factory 2050. This will be the world’s most flexible factory, capable of rapidly switching production between different high-value components and one-off parts. It will support innovation in advanced manufacturing and meet the future needs of the market by integrating research and industry collaboration.

See Access Information Economy Strategy here.

See Access the G8 Science Minister’s written statement here.

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Clinical trials – “clearer rules, better protection”: Draft EU rules on clinical trials of new medicines have been endorsed by the EP Public Health Committee. A regulation designed to encourage research whilst protecting patients’ rights is to replace an existing directive with simpler, more uniform rules. The new text makes specific provision for low-risk trials, clarifies the duties of ethics committees and details how to obtain informed consent from patients.


ENDS