Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Transitioning to non-animal methods in science and regulation
Timing: Morning, Monday, 29th June 2026
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER HEALTH FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Assessing the outlook for transitioning to non-animal methods and priorities for scientific discovery**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Scaling non-animal methods - innovation, workforce training and addressing adoption barriers**
Dr Anthony Holmes, Director, Science and Technology, NC3Rs

9.40 **Funding, infrastructure and access for NAMs**
preclinical translational models hub and other programmes aiming to accelerate alternative methods | scaling innovative NAM technologies | support for SMEs, academic labs and early career researchers | addressing disparities in access to validation infrastructure and specialist capability | training programmes and workforce upskilling | transition impact on specialist animal technologists | building effective cross-sector partnerships | addressing IP, data-sharing and commercial sensitivity issues that may affect validation and collaboration | potential tensions between open datasets and proprietary platforms
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, SME
Senior representative, AI
Senior representative, funding
Senior representative, legal

10.05 Questions and comments from the floor

10.30 **Priorities for animal regulation, compliance and welfare protection in science during phased transition**
William Reynolds, Head, Animals in Science Regulation Unit, Home Office
Questions and comments from the floor

10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.50 Break

11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.05 **Maintaining standards of quality and patient safety - validation pathways and the early access scheme**
Dr James McBlane, Preclinical Assessor, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Questions and comments from the floor

11.30 **International developments - drawing on lessons for the UK**
Senior representative, international

11.40 **Research design, safety and system reform - evidence standards, capability and considerations for competitiveness in the UK life sciences sector**
integrating research design, validation and regulatory evidence requirements for wider NAM acceptance | safety, reproducibility and scientific robustness during transition | evidence assessment in decision-making | UK alignment with FDA Modernisation Act 2.0, OECD guidelines and wider international standards | reducing duplicative testing | ASPA licensing, evidence of no viable alternative and implications for inspectors, ethics committees and licence holders | support and incentives for universities and publishers to prioritise NAMs | implications for UK competitiveness and investment | stakeholder engagement, transparency and confidence in research design and evidence standards | workforce capability, NAM transition and career pathways | cross-government coordination, progress metrics and accountability for delivery | clarifying expectations for dual-running periods and realistic timelines for reducing reliance on animal comparators
Dr Robin Lovell-Badge, Head, Developmental Genetics, The Francis Crick Institute
Dr Lorna Ewart, Chief Scientific Officer, Emulate Bio
Senior representative, animal advocacy
Senior representative, patient experience
Senior representative, workforce

12.05 Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **Next steps for policy and delivery in the transition to non-animal methods in science**
Dr Colin Wilson, Deputy Director, Research Infrastructure, Office for Life Sciences
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Health Forum