

**Westminster Health Forum policy conference:  
Transitioning to non-animal methods in science and regulation**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\***

*Draft agenda subject to change*



**WESTMINSTER  
HEALTH FORUM**

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Irene Campbell MP**
- 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**  
**Irene Campbell MP**
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Steve Race MP**
- 11.15 **'Regulatory use of data from animals, from alternatives to animals and the MHRA's review of Module 4 in isolation'**  
**Dr James McBlane**, Preclinical Assessor, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **International developments - drawing on lessons for the UK**  
**Kirk Leech**, Executive Director, European Animal Research Association
- 11.50 **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  
**Dr Julia Baines**, Head, Science Policy, PETA  
Senior representative, patient experience  
Senior representative, workforce
- 12.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **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
- 13.05 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**  
**Steve Race MP**  
**Jessica Lear**, Westminster Health Forum