

UK BioIndustry Association – Supplementary written evidence (ENB0045)

Letter from Dr Martin Turner, Associate Director: Policy, Public Affairs and Investor Relations, UK BioIndustry Association (BIA), following an evidence session on Tuesday 23 April

Engineering Biology – further information following oral evidence

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give evidence at the engineering biology inquiry last week. The BIA will provide a full written submission to the inquiry in the coming weeks. However, I would like to address and clarify two points from my testimony in the meantime, as requested by Members.

During my testimony, I referred to the Engineering Biology Regulators Network (EBRN), which was established in 2023 by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). We understand the EBRN convenes 10 to 14 regulators with the goal of fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge and best practices, and horizon scanning. To our knowledge, DSIT has not disclosed which regulators are involved in the EBRN. The engineering biology team within DSIT serves as our point of contact with the EBRN.

Lord Berkeley asked for further information on who the relevant regulators for engineering biology are. The BIA has ongoing work to identify the specific regulators responsible for overseeing engineering biology products. Some are regulated at a UK level, and some are devolved. The regulators we have identified are listed in Appendix 1; some may potentially be members of the EBRN.

Additionally, I mentioned that UK engineering biology firms raised over £5.2 billion in funding between 2017 and 2022, ranking third globally after the US and China. This data comes directly from the Government's [National Vision for Engineering Biology](#). Figure 6 within the Vision shows that fundraising by US companies totalled more than £20 billion during this period, and Chinese companies totalled between £10 billion and £20 billion. More precise figures are not provided.

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Appendix 1: List of regulators relevant to products derived from engineering biology

Application Area	Regulated products (and by-products)	Regulators
Chemicals & materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicals (e.g. UK REACH) • Pesticides • Hazardous waste (devolved) • Packaging • Bioplastic • Cosmetics • Textiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Executive (HSE) • HSE Northern Ireland • Environment Agency • Scottish Environment Protection Agency • Natural Resources Wales • Northern Ireland Environment Agency • HMRC • Office for Product Safety and Standards • Local Trading Standards Offices
Food & agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMOs (devolved) • Novel foods (devolved) • Precision Bred Organisms (PBOs) (devolved) • Cell cultivated products (devolved) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs • Scottish Government • Welsh Government • Department of the Environment (NI) • Animal and Plant Health Agency (England) • Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (Scotland) • Food Standards Agency • Food Standards Scotland
Biofuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel for transport, aviation and machinery • Biomass for heat/energy generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation Administrator (Department for Transport) • Civil Aviation Authority • Ofgem

Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling • Bioremediation (devolved) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • Scottish Environment Protection Agency • Natural Resources Wales • Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicines • Medical devices • Clinical trials • Patient Data for R&D 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency • Department for Health and Social Care • Health Research Authority • Human Tissue Authority • Information Commissioner's Office
Underlying science; Nagoya Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMOs for contained use • Animal research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Executive • HSE Northern Ireland • Defra • Scottish Government • Welsh Government • Department of the Environment (NI) • Animals in Science Regulation Unit