



Healthcare in the United Kingdom (UK) is devolved to the four nations of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The UK funds a diverse landscape of academic and commercial research from fundamental discovery to product development and implementation through grant funding, focussed commissioning and support for autonomous research institutes like the Pirbright. The UK government also directly hosts major research facilities, including public health laboratories within the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), dedicated to prevention, preparation and response to infectious diseases, and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), with a mandate to identify, research and control diseases and pests in animals, plants and bees.

The UK's rapid and successful research response to the COVID-19 pandemic would not have been possible without the extensive support, coordination and infrastructure provided by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and UK Research and Innovation, a cross-UK body devoted to academic research across disciplinary boundaries. This was complemented by efforts across the devolved nations with 125 COVID-19 studies delivered across Wales, for example.

In 2023, government funders of health research and related partners across all four nations developed a cross-government research and development framework and governance structure for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

## **R&I Policies and Strategies**

Country has a dedicated strategy for research and innovation related to pandemic threat? Yes <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukhsa-strategic-plan-2023-to-2026>

Northern Ireland : HSC emergency planning, preparedness and response guidance

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/emergency-planning-and-response> and  
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/chemical-biological-radiological-and-nuclear>

Wales [https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Health\\_and\\_Care\\_Research\\_Wales\\_Plan-2022-2025-FINAL.pdf](https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Health_and_Care_Research_Wales_Plan-2022-2025-FINAL.pdf)

UK action plan for AMR <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-5-year-action-plan-for-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029/confronting-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029>

Country has an open science portal with information on publicly financed scientific research?

Yes <https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk>  
<https://nihr.opendatasoft.com/pages/homepage/?flg=en-gb>  
<https://gtr.ukri.org/>

R&I portal <https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk>

Country has R&I webpage on COVID-19; Monkey pox; Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Website open science/ open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open

Name	URL	Short Description
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AMR	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-5-year-action-plan-for-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029/confronting-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029/confronting-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-5-year-action-plan-for-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029/confronting-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029/confronting-antimicrobial-resistance-2024-to-2029</a>	
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COVID-19	<a href="https://www.ukri.org/news-and-events/tackling-the-impact-of-covid-19/">https://www.ukri.org/news-and-events/tackling-the-impact-of-covid-19/</a>	
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COVID-19	<a href="https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/our-key-priorities/covid-19/">https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/our-key-priorities/covid-19/</a>	
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MPox	<a href="https://www.ukri.org/news/new-uk-research-consortium-to-tackle-monkeypox-outbreak/">https://www.ukri.org/news/new-uk-research-consortium-to-tackle-monkeypox-outbreak/</a>	
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Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs? Yes

Coordinating structures URL [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-report-on-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-the-uk/chapter-3-research%20%20\(UK-wide\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-report-on-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-the-uk/chapter-3-research%20%20(UK-wide))

## ***R&I Infrastructures***

Country has the following research infrastructure for infectious diseases and outbreaks available, or under construction BSL 3; BSL 4; Clinical trial units; Open genome deposits for AMR; Reference centres of excellence

Name Infrastructure	Type Infrastructure	URL	Available for	Open to Researchers
Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC)   Public Health Agency		<a href="#">Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC)   Public Health Agency - Research &amp; Development in Northern</a>		
BRCs, HealthTech Research Centres (HRCs), School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) School for Public Health Research (SPHR) School for Social Care Research (SSCR) NIHR R-TRC TRCs Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs)	Other (Biomedical and Research Centres; Research Schools; Research collaborations; Biobanks)	<a href="https://bioresource.nihr.ac.uk/">https://bioresource.nihr.ac.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explor-e-nihr/support/collaborating-in-applied-health-research.htm-one">https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explor-e-nihr/support/collaborating-in-applied-health-research.htm-one</a> <a "="" c-tric.com="" href="https://www.nihr.ac.uk/partners-and-industry/industry/support-services-facilities/medtech-&lt;/a&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Yes&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt; &lt;tr&gt; &lt;td&gt;Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;a href=" https:="">https://c-tric.com/</a>		
Health Data Research UK		<a href="https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/">https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/</a>		
NICRN - Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network		<a href="https://nicrn.hscni.net/">https://nicrn.hscni.net/</a>		
NIHR: RRDNCC, RRDN x 12, CTUs CRFs	CTUs Clinical research facilities	<a href="https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explor-e-nihr/support/research-infrastructure.htm">https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explor-e-nihr/support/research-infrastructure.htm</a>		Yes
Northern Ireland Clinical Trials Unit		<a href="https://nictu.hscni.net/">https://nictu.hscni.net/</a>		
Northern Ireland Network for Trials Methodology Research		<a href="https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/TheNorthernIrelandNetworkforTrialsMethodologyResearch/">https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/TheNorthernIrelandNetworkforTrialsMethodologyResearch/</a>		
Policy Research Units (PRUs), Health Protection Research Units (HPRUs),	Other (research units)	<a href="https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explor-e-nihr/support/research-units.htm">https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explor-e-nihr/support/research-units.htm</a>		Yes
UKHSA	Other (surveillance data)	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency</a>		Yes
UKRI Centres of Excellence, Units and Institutes	Reference centres of excellence	<a href="https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/mrc/centres-of-research-excellence/">https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/mrc/centres-of-research-excellence/</a>		Yes
Wellcome Trust-Wolfson		<a href="https://www.qub.ac.uk/resear">https://www.qub.ac.uk/resear</a>		

Country supporting the participation to the following ESFRI initiatives relevant for infectious diseases  
ERINHA

Website network of clinical trials (e.g. to facilitate the access to clinical trials) the country is involved in

<https://www.ecraid.eu/>

<https://www.remapcap.org/>

<https://www.edctp.org/>

<https://www.recover-europe.eu/>

<https://www.combacte.com/>

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/clinical-research-network.htm>

## **Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources**

### **Basic Research**

url UK : <https://www.ukri.org/> and <https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/>

Wales <https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/>

NI

Scotland

source of funding Public (research) agencies

### **Applied Research**

url UK : <https://www.ukri.org/> and <https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/>

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

Wales <https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/>

NI

Scotland

source of funding Public (research) agencies

### **Translational Research**

url UK : <https://www.ukri.org/> and <https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/>

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

Wales <https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/>

NI

Scotland

source of funding Public (research) agencies

### **Clinical Research (in general)**

url UK : <https://www.ukri.org/> and <https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/>

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

Wales <https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/>

NI

Scotland

source of funding Public (research) agencies

phase funded? 1,2,3,4

### **Clinical Research (in pandemic phase)**

url UK : <https://www.ukri.org/> and <https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/>

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

Wales <https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/>

NI

Scotland

source of funding Public (research) agencies

phase funded ? 1,2,3,4

### **Innovation Projects**

url UK : <https://www.ukri.org/> and <https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/>

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

Wales <https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/>

NI

Scotland

source of funding Public (research) agencies

flexible regional funding during emergency : YES

NI <https://research.hscni.net/covid-19-rapid-response-funding-call>

## **R&I actors, authorities and activated processes that are activated in case of a health threat**

R&I actors, authorities and

ministries involved in case of an outbreak; mobilisation processes of research forces; (existing) national or regional structures that advise governments on R&I during emergencies; administrative procedures to diminish the administrative burden for researchers and funding administrations; assessment of research outputs produced during a crisis; incentives ensuring qualitative scientific dissemination during a crisis; mechanisms to identify promising therapies or medical products for pandemic preparedness that are in the pipeline; international scientific collaboration in case of an outbreak

Name	Description	URL
Cross UK group	Cross-UK group consisting of funders who are working on a health and care R&D framework for pandemic preparedness and response	
DHSC	Key department/agency responsible in case of an outbreak.	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/communicable-disease-outbreak-management-operational-guidance/communicable-disease-outbreak-management-operational-guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/communicable-disease-outbreak-management-operational-guidance/communicable-disease-outbreak-management-operational-guidance</a>
UKHSA	UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) prevents, prepares for and responds to infectious diseases, and environmental hazards, to keep all our communities safe, save lives and protect livelihoods. UKHSA is also a research active organisation. Research, and the translation of its findings into innovations both inform and support public health policy, practice and services. UKHSA is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency</a>
NIHR - National Institute for Health Research	Basic, translational-applied, clinical studies, innovation-industry	<a href="https://www.nihr.ac.uk/">https://www.nihr.ac.uk/</a>
UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)	Funding and support across all academic disciplines and industrial areas from the medical and biological sciences to astronomy, physics, chemistry and engineering, social sciences, economics, environmental sciences, and the arts and humanities. UKRI is made up of a number of research councils, including the Medical Research Council.	<a href="https://www.ukri.org/">https://www.ukri.org/</a>
Dept of Health Northern Ireland	Regional Actor. DoH has the responsibility to develop policy, guidance and advice on planning and response to emergencies.	<a href="https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/">https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/</a>
DSIT (Department for Science, Technology and Innovation)	Ministry/authority involved in case of an outbreak	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-science-innovation">Department for Science, Innovation and Technology - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
Defra (Department for Food, Rural Affairs and Environment)	Ministry/authority involved in case of an outbreak	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs">Department for Environment, Food &amp; Rural Affairs - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>
FCDO and Science and Innovation	Support for international	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/uk-science-and-innovation">https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/uk-science-and-innovation</a>

Networks	collaboration/international networks in case of an outbreak: <a href="https://www.glopid-r.org/https://beready4pandemics.eu/">https://www.glopid-r.org/https://beready4pandemics.eu/</a>	<a href="#">innovation-network</a>
Health and Care Research Wales	Regional Actor	<a href="https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/">https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/</a>
HSC R&D Division Northern Ireland	HSC R&D Division is responsible for funding clinical research. Also responsible for governance for clinical research regionally.	<a href="https://research.hscni.net/">https://research.hscni.net/</a>
MHRA/HRA	Advice to authorities and rapid mobilisation	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency</a>  <a href="https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/best-practice/public-involvement/public-involvement-pandemic-lessons-uk-covid-19-public-involvement-matching-service/">https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/best-practice/public-involvement/public-involvement-pandemic-lessons-uk-covid-19-public-involvement-matching-service/</a>
Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research OSCHR and UK Strategic Coordination of Health and Public Research (SCHOPR) – a sub board to OSCHR.	OSCHR's role is to facilitate more efficient translation of health research into health and economic benefits in the UK through better coordination of health research and more coherent funding arrangements to support translation. SCHOPR includes a broad range of research funders who work together to provide strategic direction, enhance coordination and identify priorities for improving the health of the public research. SCHOPR's role is to develop and deliver a transdisciplinary strategy for UK health of the public.	<a href="https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/what-we-do/our-place-in-the-uk-research-landscape/oschr.htm">https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/what-we-do/our-place-in-the-uk-research-landscape/oschr.htm</a>
Public Health Agency	The Public Health Agency (PHA) is responsible for providing health protection and health and social wellbeing improvement to every member of every community in Northern Ireland	<a href="https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/">https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/</a>
UK Clinical Research Collaboration	The UKCRC provides a forum to facilitate coordination between funding bodies in order to address barriers and maximise opportunities in health research in the UK	<a href="https://www.ukcrc.org/">https://www.ukcrc.org/</a>
Wellcome Trust	Wellcome is a global charitable foundation that funds research to improve life, health and wellbeing through new knowledge and understanding. Wellcome funds discovery research over a broad range of disciplines – including social sciences and the humanities – giving researchers the freedom to explore life, health, and wellbeing and seek insights that can inspire future improvements in health.  Wellcome brings together expertise across science, innovation, and society to develop solutions to address the issues of three urgent health challenges: mental health, infectious diseases, and climate and health.	<a href="https://wellcome.org/">https://wellcome.org/</a>



BE READY is responding to the call: HORIZON-HLTH-2021-DISEASE-04-06 "Building a European partnership for pandemic preparedness" under grant agreement 101057795. Starting date: 01.06.2022. | End Date 31.05.2025

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This country profile is based on input received via [https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BEREADY\\_Questionnaire\\_Observatory](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BEREADY_Questionnaire_Observatory) and desktop research and does not contain any private information