

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

A diverse landscape of academic and commercial research from fundamental discovery to product development and implementation is supported across the UK through grant funding, focussed commissioning and support for autonomous research institutes like the Pirbright. The UK government 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 (UKRI) devoted to academic research across disciplinary boundaries working in partnership with the research support and infrastructure provided by the Devolved Nations. This supported research studies and trials across the UK including 125 COVID-19 studies delivered across Wales, and 205 COVID-19 studies delivered in Scotland, 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. This has been implemented to coordinate research funding and prioritisation for pandemic preparedness and outbreak response.

R&I Policies and Strategies

The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly

Country has a dedicated strategy for research and innovation related to pandemic threat? **Yes**

[UKHSA strategic plan 2023 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Scottish Government: [Standing Committee on Pandemic Preparedness - gov.scot](#)

Northern Ireland: [Emergency planning and response | Department of Health](#)
[Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear | Department of Health](#)

Wales: [Research matters: our plan for improving health and care research in Wales 2022 - 2025](#)

UK action plan for AMR: [Confronting antimicrobial resistance 2024 to 2029 - GOV.UK](#)

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

[NIHR Funding and Awards](#)

[NIHR Open Data](#)

[UKRI Gateway \(GtR\)](#)

R&I portal:

UK: [Search - NIHR Funding and Awards](#)

Scotland: [Chief Scientist Office – To support and increase the level of high-quality health research conducted in Scotland.](#)

Country has R&I webpage on COVID-19; MPox; Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
Website open science/open data initiative with respect to pandemic threats, such as COVID-19 open:

Name	URL
AMR	Confronting antimicrobial resistance 2024 to 2029 - GOV.UK
COVID-19 (UKRI)	Understanding the impact of COVID-19 – UKRI
COVID-19 (NIHR)	NIHR's response to COVID-19 NIHR
MPox	Mpox: background information - GOV.UK
MPox	Mpox Virus The Pirbright Institute

Country has coordinating structures to link public health needs and research needs? Yes

Coordinating structures URL: [Technical report on the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK - Chapter 3: research - GOV.UK](#)

R&I Infrastructures, Initiatives and Clinical Trials

The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly

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 centers of excellence

Infrastructure Name	Infrastructure Type	URL	Available for	Open to Researchers
Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC) Public Health Agency NI		Administrative Data Research Centre (ADRC) Public Health Agency - Research & Development in Northern		
NIHR BRCs, NIHR HealthTech Research Centres (HRCs), NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR), NIHR School for Public Health Research (SPHR), NIHR School for Social Care Research (SSCR), NIHR R-TRC TRCs, NIHR Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs)	Other (Biomedical and Research Centres; Research Schools; Research collaborations; Biobanks)	NIHR BioResource Home Page Applied Research Collaborations NIHR Newly funded NIHR Medtech and In vitro diagnostic Co-operatives announced NIHR		Yes
Clinical Translational Research and Innovation Centre		C-TRIC		
Health Data Research UK		Home - HDR UK		
NICRN - Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network		Clinical Research Network – Northern Ireland’s Largest Research Delivery Platform		
NIHR: RRDNCC, RRDN x 12, CTUs CRFs	CTUs Clinical research facilities	Investing in infrastructure NIHR		Yes
Northern Ireland Clinical Trials Unit		Northern Ireland Clinical Trials Unit Northern Ireland		

		Clinical Trials Unit		
Northern Ireland Network for Trials Methodology Research		The Northern Ireland Network for Trials Methodology Research The Northern Ireland Network for Trials Methodology Research		
NIHR Policy Research Units (PRUs), NIHR Health Protection Research Units (HPRUs),	Other (research units)	Research units NIHR		Yes
Scotland		Home NHS Research Scotland NHS Research Scotland		
UKHSA	Other (surveillance data)	UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK		Yes
UKRI Centres of Excellence, Units and Institutes	Reference centres of Excellence	MRC Centres of Research Excellence – UKRI		Yes
Wellcome Trust-Wolfson Northern Ireland Clinical Research Facility		The Wellcome Trust-Wolfson Northern Ireland Clinical Research Facility Queen's University Belfast		

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

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

- [Ecraid home | Ecraid](#)
- [REMAP-CAP Trial](#)
- [Home - EDCTP](#)
- [Recover Europe – Recovering from Covid19](#)
- [COMBACTE fights antibiotic resistant bacteria by uniting experts](#)
- [Research Delivery Network | NIHR](#)

Budget mobilisation mechanisms and funding sources The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly

Basic Research

URL:

UK: [UKRI – UK Research and Innovation](#) and [Medical Research Council \(MRC\) – UKRI](#)

Wales: [Homepage | Health Care Research Wales](#)

NI:

Scotland:

Source of funding: Public (research) agencies

Applied Research

URL:

UK: [UKRI – UK Research and Innovation](#), [Medical Research Council \(MRC\) – UKRI](#) and [Homepage | NIHR](#)

Wales: [Homepage | Health Care Research Wales](#)

NI:

Scotland: [Chief Scientist Office – To support and increase the level of high-quality health research conducted in Scotland.](#)

Source of funding: Public (research) agencies

Translational Research

URL:

UK: [UKRI – UK Research and Innovation](#), [Medical Research Council \(MRC\) – UKRI](#) and [Homepage | NIHR](#)

Wales: [Homepage | Health Care Research Wales](#)

NI:

Scotland: [Chief Scientist Office – To support and increase the level of high-quality health research conducted in Scotland.](#)

Source of funding: Public (research) agencies

Clinical Research (in general)

URL:

UK: [UKRI – UK Research and Innovation](#), [Medical Research Council \(MRC\) – UKRI](#) and [Homepage | NIHR](#)

Wales: [Homepage | Health Care Research Wales](#)

NI: <https://research.hscni.net/>

Scotland: [Chief Scientist Office – To support and increase the level of high-quality health research conducted in Scotland.](#)
and [Home | NHS Research Scotland | NHS Research Scotland](#)

Source of funding: Public (research) agencies

Phase funded: 1, 2, 3, 4

Clinical Research (in pandemic phase)

URL:

UK: [UKRI – UK Research and Innovation](#), [Medical Research Council \(MRC\) – UKRI](#) and [Homepage | NIHR](#)

Wales: [Homepage | Health Care Research Wales](#)

NI:

Scotland: [Chief Scientist Office – To support and increase the level of high-quality health research conducted in Scotland.](#)
and [Home | NHS Research Scotland | NHS Research Scotland](#)

Source of funding: Public (research) agencies

Phase funded: 1, 2, 3, 4

Innovation Projects

URL:

UK: [UKRI – UK Research and Innovation](#), [Medical Research Council \(MRC\) – UKRI](#) and [Homepage | NIHR](#)

Wales: [Homepage | Health Care Research Wales](#)

NI: <https://research.hscni.net/>

Scotland: [Chief Scientist Office – To support and increase the level of high-quality health research conducted in Scotland.](#)
and [Home | NHS Research Scotland](#) | [NHS Research Scotland](#)

Source of funding: Public (research) agencies

Flexible regional funding during emergency: YES

NI: [COVID-19 Rapid Response Funding Call](#) | [Public Health Agency - Research & Development in Northern Ireland](#)

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

The information is not exhaustive and should be updated regularly

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 Research Framework for Pandemic preparedness and response	Cross-UK group consisting of funders who are working on a health and care R&D framework and research priorities for pandemic preparedness and response	
Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)	Key department/agency responsible in case of an outbreak.	Communicable disease outbreak management guidance - GOV.UK
UK Health Security Agency (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	UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK
NIHR - National Institute for Health and Care Research	National clinical research funder that can mobilise resources for rapid funding and/or health emergencies translational-applied, clinical studies, innovation-industry research	Homepage NIHR
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	UKRI – UK Research and Innovation

	sciences, economics, environmental sciences, and the arts and humanities. UKRI is made up of a number of research councils, including the Medical Research Council.	
Dept of Health Northern Ireland	Regional Actor. DoH has the responsibility to develop policy, guidance and advice on planning and response to emergencies in Northern Ireland.	Home Department of Health
DSIT (Department for Science, Technology and Innovation)	Ministry/authority involved in case of an outbreak	Department for Science, Innovation and Technology - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Defra (Department for Food, Rural Affairs and Environment)	Ministry/authority involved in case of an outbreak	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
FCDO and Science and Innovation Networks	Support for international collaboration/international networks in case of an outbreak: GLOPID-R Home BeReady	UK Science and Technology Network - GOV.UK
Health and Care Research Wales	Regional Actor	Homepage Health Care Research Wales
HSC R&D Division Northern Ireland	HSC R&D Division is responsible for funding clinical research. Also responsible for governance for clinical research regionally.	Public Health Agency - Research & Development in Northern Ireland
MHRA/HRA	Regulation and advice to authorities and rapid mobilisation	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency - GOV.UK Public involvement in a pandemic: lessons from the UK COVID-19 public involvement matching service - Health Research Authority
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.	Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research NIHR
Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland)	Regional Actor. 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	Welcome HSC Public Health Agency
UK Clinical Research Collaboration	The UKCRC provides a forum to facilitate coordination between funding bodies in order to address	UKCRC UK Clinical Research Collaboration

	barriers and maximise opportunities in health research in the UK	
Wellcome Trust	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Home Wellcome
Scottish Government Chief Scientist Office	Regional Actor. Responsibilities for supporting health research in Scotland and, with NHS Research Scotland, clinical research in the NHS in Scotland	Chief Scientist Office – To support and increase the level of high-quality health research conducted in Scotland. Home NHS Research Scotland NHS Research Scotland
Scottish Government DG Health and Social Care	Regional Actor. Responsibility for health improvement, safety and wellbeing in Scotland	Health and social care - gov.scot
Public Health Scotland	Regional Actor. Sponsored by the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) on behalf of local government, to lead and support Scotland to respond to health challenges and make a difference to people's lives.	Public Health Scotland
Medical Research Council	improves the health of people in the UK by supporting excellent science, and training the very best scientists	MRC list of institutes, units and centres – UKRI

Version June 2025



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

BE READY PLUS is responding to the call: HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-17 “Pandemic preparedness and response: Maintaining and enhancing the preparatory work for a co-funded European partnership for pandemic” under grant agreement 101195079. Starting date: 01.01.2025. | End Date 31.12.2025

Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA), under the powers delegated by the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

This country profile is based on input received via https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/BEREADY_Questionnaire_Observatory and desktop research and does not contain any private information