

[News story: New accountability rules for insurers](#)

The new rules will give consumers peace of mind that those at the top of the big insurers will be held personally responsible for any wrongdoing. The rules will also ensure that a code of conduct is set out for all staff, and that employees who do a job where they could do significant harm to consumers, or to the UK's financial stability, are approved annually by their firm.

John Glen, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and City Minister said:

Britain's first-class regulation is one of many reasons our country is so attractive for financial services investment. The Senior Managers and Certification Regime plays a big part in this, ensuring that those at the top display the behaviours and values that the British people expect.

The extension of the Regime to insurance firms will ensure individual accountability for misconduct at the most senior levels within the insurance sector.

The Senior Managers and Certification Regime, first introduced for banks and building societies in 2016, will be extended to include insurance firms from 10 December 2018. Currently the Regime applies to banks, building societies, credit unions, investment firms and UK branches of foreign banks. The government previously legislated to extend the Regime across all financial services firms. The extension into insurance is the start of this.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) are also consulting on how the Regime will apply when it is extended to include smaller firms regulated only by the FCA (also known as solo-regulated firms).

[News story: Improving health through digital innovations: apply for funding](#)

Consultant meeting with a patient to discuss healthcare options.

Innovate UK has up to £8 million to invest in new technologies through the digital health technology catalyst.

Addressing priority areas for health services

The catalyst was set up under the government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to address challenges around the development of digital health innovations. Digital technology is seen as a significant opportunity to improve outcomes for patients and at a lower cost.

Projects could be in a number of priority areas for health services. This includes cancer diagnosis and treatment, mental health services, diabetes reduction, emergency care provision, management of primary care workload and enabling patient choice.

They could also include health services to maintain or improve care while reducing costs.

A range of technologies could attract funding

We expect to fund projects across a range of technologies including:

- virtual and augmented reality
- artificial intelligence and machine learning
- use of sensors, internet of things, and networks
- informatics, data analytics and process

They could help:

- clinical decision-making
- patients with their treatments
- improve disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term care

Competition information

- the competition opens on 15 February 2018, and the deadline is at midday on 18 April 2018
- projects must be led by an SME working with at least one partner
- we expect projects to range in size between £300,000 and £1 million and to last up to 30 months
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their project costs
- a briefing event takes place on 20 February 2018

[News story: Animal welfare strengthened by new codes for pigs and](#)

poultry

Strengthened statutory guidance will be available for pig and poultry keepers on how to meet the needs of their animals and enhance their welfare.

Welfare codes for pigs, laying hens, and meat chickens are being updated to reflect the very latest advice from vets and animal husbandry developments, as part of a programme of reforms to safeguard and enhance the welfare of animals, the Minister for animal welfare, Lord Gardiner announced today.

Minister for Animal welfare, Lord Gardiner, said:

We have some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and are going further, including raising maximum sentences for animal cruelty to five years and introducing mandatory CCTV in abattoirs.

We are carefully consulting with industry experts, and using the most recent scientific and veterinary advice to ensure this clear guidance provides the best advice to owners and keepers to help ensure the high welfare standards of their animals.

Under the proposals, animal keepers will be expected to provide a more enriched environment for all pigs, laying hens, and meat chickens to enable them to display more of their natural behaviours such as foraging, helping to ensure more fulfilled and healthier animals. The user-friendly codes also provide detailed guidance to animal keepers on how to assess the welfare of their animals, as well as on contingency planning to help ensure the welfare of their animals during any emergencies.

The codes will be used by enforcement bodies including Animal and Plant Health Agency inspectors and local authorities when investigating allegations of poor welfare to look at whether animal welfare standards are being met.

A six week consultation begins today (29 January) where government is seeking views from industry and stakeholders. The new guidance is expected to be available later this year.

1. View the consultations on the [pigs](#) and [laying hens](#) codes
 2. View the [meat chicken draft codes](#)
 3. The [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#) covers all animals in England, and details their five welfare needs.
 4. For further media queries, please contact Defra press office on 020 8225 7318 or 020 8026 3005.
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[News story: Sellafield keeps door open for small firms](#)

The second Director's Forum builds on the success of a previous event, which saw the launch of the new [LINC](#) platform, providing a direct route into opportunities at Sellafield.

The latest session will be held on Monday 19th March at Energus in Workington, and is now open for registration.

Emma-Jayne Gooch, Head of Supply Chain Development and Innovation said:

The last event brought the supply chain directly in contact with our project teams, and through workshops gave them an opportunity tell us how we can be a better client.

The response was overwhelming. Smaller companies can see that we are doing things differently, so there is a real appetite to build on momentum and keep the lines of communication open.

The first Directors Forum in September was attended by more than 350 people.

Following the event, B2B and React Engineering used the new LINC platform to submit a proposal for work at the site, and secured a contract within four days.

Emma-Jayne added;

The first opportunity published in the LINC scheme, and the incredible speed at which it was awarded, shows that we are really taking action to help them win work.

This second session will provide a clearer look at procurement opportunities through an improved 'Procurements on a Page' scheme. Our innovation team and 'value stream' leads will also be on hand to provide an insight to changes at Sellafield Ltd.

It promises to be a vibrant, engaging and informative event so we would encourage businesses to register.

Due to the anticipated interest we will be restricting registration to two directors from each organisation.

To register for the event go to [book](#).

For more information on LINC with Sellafield, visit ['How to do business with Sellafield Ltd'](#)

Statement to Parliament: Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill

[unable to retrieve full-text content]An updated analysis of report stage government amendments for the purposes of English votes for English laws has been laid in the house.