

External Affairs Working Party Meeting Minutes – 21 January 2022

Apologies – *Mark Street-Docherty, MicroSens DX*

Doris-Ann Williams (DAW) read out the Competition Law notice to attendees.

Working Party Chair Ollie Mitchell (OM) addressed the previous meeting notes and no actions needed the group's attention.

Update on the Early Cancer Diagnosis Roundtable – Helen Dent (HD)

- On Wednesday 19 January, a roundtable panel-event was hosted on regulatory pathways for innovations and Advanced Diagnostics. On the panel were Angela Douglas MBE, Mike Messenger, Dame Anna Dominiczak DBE MD, Sarah Byon, Catherine Cargo and Mike Hubank.
- Each speaker had a set five minutes to discuss their positions and thoughts on the current situation, followed by a group Q&A session.
- There is an Early Cancer Diagnosis project from the Office for Life Sciences which is being managed by Prof Mike Richards and Mike Fitzgerald. This work feeds into their project.
- BIVDA partnered with EUCOPE also on the roundtable, they composed a [White Paper on adoption and innovation](#). They have some member companies in common with BIVDA which has assisted with organisation and future planning.
- The Genomics WP is due to meet in-person on 28 February at the BIVDA office.

Summary of current BIVDA activities, including CTDA COVID test validation – Doris-Ann Williams

- There has been a lot of media and political work around the UK manufacturing of lateral flow tests, however this goes to deeper than that into the UK manufacturing of all diagnostic products and how contracts were made during the pandemic.
- A Sunday Telegraph article has shown that working with the media on this issue is quite challenging and directionless. BIVDA has been in conversation with the Shadow Health team, and also the MP Neale Hanvey (who worked previously as a nurse). Mr Hanvey is digging around for information that could be of use and BIVDA is supporting him.
- Helen is investigating the nitty-gritty of contracts, legality and procurement regarding tests. BIVDA is also planning to commission a report on the entire subject of diagnostics during the pandemic, lessons learnt etc. This will be of use for the next pandemic or health crisis facing the UK and shows our sector's capacity to collaborate and work to create solutions.
- The MHRA are undergoing a reorganisation process, and BIVDA is monitoring what's happening on the future medical device regime process to ensure emergency response approaches are not as complicated as the present CTDA one.
- BIVDA was featured in the 'I' Newspaper in an article on the re-start of routine testing. In March, the team are planning a relaunch of the work of the Don'tWait; Act campaign (rebranding of title and focus to be discussed).
- BIVDA is working on a [Workshop on 23 February](#) with speakers from a variety of NHS roles to discuss the impact of financial flows changing from 1 April, with Integrated Care Systems and the Provider Collaborative.

- Doris-Ann received an invite to the restart of 'Diagnostics Strategy' discussion, led by health minister Edward Argar. This takes place on Tuesday 1 February.

Member Involvement:

- It's essential for the External Affairs WP that it is agenda-led and member-led. Members are encouraged to feed-back to [the BIVDA team](#) any topics they'd like to see on meeting agendas, any feedback on meetings, ideas for speakers/organisational engagement, documents that could be compiled.

AOBs:

- Jo Martin suggested a speaker on informatics and interoperability for EAWP.
- HD asked for thoughts and views on a statement came through via a BIVDA member company on a hospital trust requiring two vaccine doses to work in hospital buildings from 1 April 2022. The Regulated Activities legislation of January 2021 in relation to suppliers talks about direct face-to-face contact with patients, and CQC-regulated activity. It mentions contract, agency, bank staff deployed as part of CQC activity.
- A discussion was held during the meeting on whether a BIVDA statement should be worked out.
- Darren Stenlake said that BIVDA should be cautious on whether this requires a reaction from the trade association.
- Richard Hames said it isn't unreasonable as long as the standards the NHS are asking of diagnostic sector workers are in line with those for NHS staff.
Doris-Ann said she agreed with the views of Darren and Richard that it would be difficult to rebuff the policy as long as it's asked of staff.

Next Meeting:

The next External Affairs Working Party meeting will take place on **9.30-10.30 on Friday 18 February. Register [here](#).**

END