

BIVDA Statement on Chancellor's Summer Economic Update

9th July 2020

For Immediate Release

The Chief Executive of BIVDA, Doris-Ann Williams, has commented on the economic announcements in the Chancellor's Summer Economic Update. Looking at the measures announced to support job creation, Doris-Ann said;

"We welcome the measures announced to support young people and school leavers into work, with 700,000 leaving education this year. We would strongly encourage the Department of Education, schools and colleges to examine the opportunities in the life sciences and in-vitro diagnostics sector, and for the Kickstart scheme and expanded trainee places to apply in our industry. We stand ready to to play our part in training up the next generation in high-skilled jobs of the future."

However, Doris-Ann also warned of missing elements in the Chancellor's speech.

"As we look towards the Autumn Statement and Budget, the Chancellor must be aware of the importance of supporting the NHS as we look to restart the economy. Countless working-age people are currently living with undiagnosed conditions since March this year. It is critical that IVD capacity in the NHS is scaled up at pace to ensure that these people can be diagnosed and treated promptly.

A wave of illness caused by the lack of routine testing and hospital services would not just be a disaster for the recovering economy, it would mean thousands of avoidable personal tragedies for those living with illness which could have been diagnosed earlier.

We will be contacting Ministers over the coming days to make the case for a spotlight to be turned on IVDs – to help our members to support our economic recovery and ensure that patients can benefit from timely diagnosis by the NHS and get the treatment they need as soon as possible."

ENDS

For more information please contact External Affairs Manager Jon Harrison at jonh@bivda.org.uk

About BIVDA

The British In Vitro Diagnostics Association, usually referred to as BIVDA, is the national industry association for the manufacturers and distributors of in vitro diagnostic (IVD) products in the UK. BIVDA represents over a hundred organisations ranging from British start-up companies to UK subsidiaries of multinational corporations. BIVDA members sales into the NHS were approximately £900 million in 2019 and there is IVD manufacturing for both export sales and for product to enter into corporate global stock. Information from diagnostic tests makes up about 70% of the information used for clinical decision making in patient care.