

*Institute of Biomedical Science*  
*12 Coldbath Square, London EC1R 5HL*  
Tel: 020 7713 0214 • Fax: 020 7837 9658  
E-mail: [mail@ibms.org](mailto:mail@ibms.org)  
Website: [www.ibms.org](http://www.ibms.org)



*Chief Executive*  
*Jill Rodney*

12 November 2020

The Rt Hon the Lord Bethell  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Innovation  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Dear Lord Bethell

Thank you for your time yesterday and the opportunity to highlight how the Institute of Biomedical Science is delivering a competent, multi-skilled, flexible diagnostic workforce now and for the future. The Institute is ideally positioned to support the early intervention agenda you described, both through growing and enhancing the role of diagnostics in underpinning your mission and by developing the scientific workforce required.

The Institute of Biomedical Science is the leading professional body for scientists, support staff and students in the field of biomedical science and has over 19,000 individual members along with 69 company members from the diagnostics industry.

You acknowledged the value of engagement with professional bodies and the particular benefit of working with the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) who represent some 3500 medical staff in laboratories. Our unique contribution is the support we provide to the 22000 biomedical scientists working in NHS laboratories in England and the rapidly expanding support staff deployed in the operational delivery of the testing programme.

Given the high demand for support staff to fulfil the resourcing requirements for mass testing, the Institute has a tailored range of training modules and qualifications that can, and are being used, to assure the competence and development of staff in these key roles that is quite different from the focus of the RCPATH. We are also working with the National School of Healthcare Science to provide certificates of competence, specific to COVID-19 LAMP testing, as a marker of competence and quality.

We agreed the importance of a pipeline of multi-skilled scientific and support staff to keep pace with and deliver the benefits of rapid technological innovation. Through our provision of a suite of qualifications, from supporting those new to the profession through to developing advanced practitioners, the Institute is *the* key provider in delivering the competent diagnostic workforce with the skill set to become registered scientists and meet the challenges of the future.

I trust that, following our positive meeting yesterday, you will see that we are ready to help in any way required, from expert scientific input through to facilitating the fast tracking of a multi-skilled, 'lab-ready' workforce, and look forward to maintaining open communication channels with you and your team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Allan Wilson  
**President**  
**Institute of Biomedical Science**

cc: Lord Scriven