

Questions raised on Antibiotics - April 2014

Antibiotics

Health

28th April 2014



Nicholas Dakin (Scunthorpe, Labour)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage investment in antibiotic resistance research and development.



Daniel Poulter (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health; Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, Conservative)

The Department's National Institute for Health Research ([NIHR](#)) is running a themed call on antimicrobial resistance ([AMR](#)) research across eight different funding programmes. Successful research bids will be announced between summer 2014 and spring 2015.

About £7.2 million over five years is being invested in two new NIHR health protection research units focusing on healthcare-associated infections and AMR. These units became operational from April 2014 and are partnerships between universities and [Public Health England](#).

To promote joint action, the Department is working together with the other major United Kingdom ([UK](#)) funders of AMR research through a new research funders forum. The forum first met in December 2013.

To further international AMR research collaboration, the UK, through the [Medical Research Council](#), has been playing a key role in a European Union joint programming initiative on AMR.

Antibiotics: Drug Resistance

Health

9th April 2014



Zac Goldsmith (Richmond Park, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2014, *Official Report*, columns 779-80W, on death bacterial diseases, if he will make it his policy to collect and publish data on (a) how many [NHS](#) patients have died due to antibiotic resistance and (b) which specific pathogens or drug resistant strains of infection caused such deaths.



Daniel Poulter (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health; Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, Conservative)

Although information on deaths associated with specific antibiotic resistant infections is not currently available from routine data sources, the Department is exploring options for producing better and more reliable surveillance. These options include the linking of death registration with resistance-specific surveillance datasets on healthcare associated infections. We understand that the first set of mortality data, covering methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *C.difficile* infection, should be made available by [Public Health England](#), towards the end of the year.