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Exploring
perceptions of
bacteriophage
use in the UK

Response 1: Parliamentary
Under-Secretary of State for
Public Health and Prevention



Department of Health & Social Care

From Ashley Dalton MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Public Health and Prevention

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Ms Irene Lavergne
Policy Officer
Applied Microbiology International
By email to: policy@appliedmicrobiology.org

22 August 2025

Dear Ms Lavergne,

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 July to the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, co-signed by your colleagues Ms Daisy Neale and Ms Lucky Cullen, about implementing phage therapy across the UK. Your email has been forwarded to this Department.

Thank you for enclosing the executive summary of your paper *Policy in Practice: Exploring Perceptions of Bacteriophage Use in the UK Across the One Health Spectrum: A Roundtable Discussion*. I appreciate your concerns.

The Government is committed to exploring alternative therapies to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR), including bacteriophages. In 2023, Professor Isabel Oliver and Professor Mark Sutton gave evidence on behalf of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to the Commons Science, Innovation and Technology Committee on the antimicrobial potential of bacteriophage. This publication can be read in full at committees.parliament.uk/work/7045/the-antimicrobial-potential-of-bacteriophages.

In the Government response to the Parliamentary Inquiry report, published on 1 March 2024, the UKHSA identified a number of areas where it would contribute, in line with the recommendations of the committee. This support addresses various aspects to move phage use into the clinic and/or other sectors. The report is available to read at www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-antimicrobial-potential-of-bacteriophages-report-government-response/governments-response-to-the-science-innovation-and-technology-committees-report-the-antimicrobial-potential-of-bacteriophages.

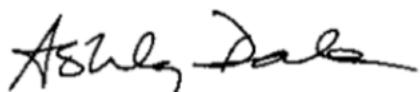
Work to establish an integrated pathway to support phage use in the UK is ongoing. This is building on the previous work of the UKHSA in consultation with other public sector bodies, including One Health partners, and includes:

- exploring setting up a phage service to enable improved access to phage therapy;
- addressing the need to improve the evidence base on the efficacy of phage therapy; and
- understanding the needs, drivers and opportunities for the 'good manufacturing practice'-compliant manufacturing of phage therapy in the UK.

The UKHSA supports the wider evaluation of non-traditional therapeutic agents such as phage through its Open Innovation in AMR platform. This was previously supported by research infrastructure funding through the National Institute for Health and Care Research and collaboration with the Pathways to Antimicrobial Clinical Efficacy AMR consortium.

I hope this reply is helpful and I would be grateful if you could share it with your co-signatories.

Yours sincerely,



ASHLEY DALTON