

# Horizon scanning

## In this guide

### [In this guide](#)

1. [About the Committees - 2024](#)
2. [Preface - 2024](#)
3. [COT evaluations - 2024](#)
4. [COT Procedures - 2024](#)
5. [COT ways of working - 2024](#)
6. [Ongoing work - 2024](#)
7. [Other Committee Activities: Joint Expert Groups, Presentations and Workshop - 2024](#)
8. [Joint Expert Groups - 2024](#)
9. [Working Groups - 2024](#)
10. [Other Regulators Opinions \(ORO\) and Abbreviated \(ABB\) decisions - 2024](#)
11. [2024 Membership of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
12. [Sub-groups active in 2024](#)
13. [Declaration of members' interests during the period of this report - 2024](#)
14. [Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment Annual Report 2024](#)
15. [Completed Work - 2024](#)
16. [Ongoing work - COM 2024](#)
17. [Horizon scanning - COM 2024](#)
18. [2024 Membership of the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
19. [Declaration of members interests during the period of this report - COM 2024](#)
20. [Committee on the Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment Annual Report 2024](#)
21. [COC Evaluations - 2024](#)
22. [COC Ongoing topics - 2024](#)
23. [Guidance statements - COC 2024](#)
24. [Horizon scanning - COC 2024](#)
25. [COC input to other work](#)

26. [2024 Membership of the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
27. [Declaration of members interests during the period of this report - COC 2024](#)

3.28 COC further explored horizon scanning through 2024, following the joint discussion with COM in October 2023, with a view to considering a sustainable approach to horizon scanning for the Committees. This was facilitated through discussion with Professor Jason Weeks (IEH Consulting) in March 2024 and November 2024.

3.29 A demonstration of an approach using an information aggregator tool bringing together information from a range of sources was provided identifying themes of potential interest and relevance to the Committee. This allowed Members to consider such an approach and the potential utility of the types of insights identified.

3.30 At the November 2024 meeting, a number of insights were identified from the tool:

- The risk evaluation for tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP).
- A reconsideration of car flame retardants.
- Human risk exposure to microplastics and microfibres.
- The presence of toxic chemicals in air fresheners used in the home.
- The hazards of chemicals used in hair relaxers.
- The risk of cancer from the regular use of mouth wash.
- Broader issues raised included gender and race specific topics, managing misinformation and continued reemergence of topics previously considered to be resolved.

3.31 It was noted that some of these insights and issues were not necessarily within COC's remit and would also need to be considered by the Secretariat for relevance to FSA and DHSC/UKHSA priorities. However, it was considered to be a useful early assessment of trends and challenges, gaps in knowledge, and potentially emerging future risks.

3.32 Further discussion would take place in 2025 to determine how horizon scanning can be taken forward in the future.