

# About the Committees

## In this guide

### [In this guide](#)

1. [About the Committees](#)
2. [Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment -Preface 2021](#)
3. [COT Evaluations 2021](#)
4. [Updated COT Evaluations 2021](#)
5. [Committee Procedures](#)
6. [COT Ongoing Work 2021](#)
7. [COT Working Groups 2021](#)
8. [2021 Membership of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
9. [Declaration of COT members interests during the period of this report- 2021](#)
10. [Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment-Preface 2021](#)
11. [COM Ongoing Work 2021](#)
12. [COM Evaluations 2021](#)
13. [COM Horizon Scanning 2021](#)
14. [2021 Membership of the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
15. [Declaration of COM members interests during the period of this report 2021](#)
16. [Committee on the Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment - Preface 2021](#)
17. [COC Evaluations 2021](#)
18. [COC Joint Ongoing Topics 2021](#)
19. [COC Horizon Scanning 2021](#)
20. [COC Working Groups 2021](#)
21. [COC Guidance Statements 2021](#)
22. [2021 Membership of the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
23. [Declaration of COC members interests during the period of this report 2021](#)
24. [Annex 1 - Terms of Reference](#)

25. [Annex 2 - Code of Conduct for members of the COC/COM/COT](#)
26. [Annex 3 - Openness](#)
27. [Annex 4 - Good Practice Agreement for Scientific Advisory Committees](#)
28. [Annex 5 - Glossary of Terms](#)
29. [Annex 7 - Previous Publications](#)



Committee on  
**Toxicity**

Committee on  
**Carcinogenicity**

Committee on  
**Mutagenicity**

**Annual Report 2021**

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PDF

[View Annex 1 terms of reference as PDF \(118.86 KB\)](#)

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[View Annex 2 - Code of Conduct for members of the COC-COM-COT Acc V.pdf as PDF](#) (160.31 KB)

PDF

[View Annex 3 openness as PDF](#) (111.99 KB)

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[View Annex 4 FSA code of practice as PDF](#) (112.44 KB)

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[View Annex 5 glossary as PDF](#) (557.57 KB)

**\*Annex 6 coming soon\***

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This is the 31st joint annual report of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT), the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM) and the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC).

The aim of these reports is to provide a brief background to the Committees' decisions. Those seeking further information on a particular subject can obtain details from the Committee's statements and minutes, available from the websites listed below or from the Committee's administrative Secretary.

In common with other independent advisory committees, Committee members are required to follow a Code of Conduct which also gives guidance on how commercial interests should be declared. Members are required to declare any commercial interests on appointment and, again during meetings if a topic arises in which they have an interest. If a member declares a specific interest in a topic under discussion, and it is considered to be a conflict of interest, he or she may, at the Chairman's discretion be allowed to take part in the discussion but is excluded from decision-making. Annex 1 contains the terms of reference under which the Committees were set up. The Code of Conduct is at Annex 2 and Annex 3 describes the Committees' policy on openness.

Annex 4 is the Good Practice Agreement for Scientific Advisory Committees. Annex 5 contains a glossary of technical terms used in the text. Annex 6 is an alphabetical index to subjects and substances considered in previous reports. Previous publications of the Committees are listed at Annex 7.

These three Committees also provide expert advice to other advisory committees, such as the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, and there are links with the FSA Science Council, Veterinary Products Committee and the Expert Committee on Pesticides (formerly the Advisory Committee on Pesticides).

The Committees' procedures for openness include the publication of agendas, finalised minutes, agreed conclusions and statements. These are published on the internet at the following links:

[Committee on Toxicity](#)

[Committee on Carcinogenicity](#)

[Committee on Mutagenicity](#)

This report contains summaries of the discussions and links to the Committees' published statements. Paper copies are available upon request to the Secretariats.