

# COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

## UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### Purpose

This paper outlines issues from other advisory committees that may be of interest to COT.

### Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)

**Last Meeting:** 5th Dec 2019 (Open session)

### ACSS Update (January 2020)

Formally established in April 2018, the Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS) provides expert strategic advice to the FSA on the use of the social sciences. The Committee met for the fourth time on 5th December 2019 to give updated on activities since the last Committee meeting (December 2019). Updates were given from each working group:

- **The Assurance Working Group** had discussed relevant FSA processes and identified future themes for the working group around: tender activity, post project reviews and guidance for drafting research specification and evaluation tender application.
- **The EU Exit Working Group** had provided valuable input into evidence specification for FSA planned commissions. The group will continue to provide advice on approaches currently takes by the AU to assess the economic impact of EU exit and to identify research gaps.
- **The Risk Communications Group** had advised on the specification, commissioning and reporting of a review of the current state-of-play of available risk communication guidance that is potentially applicable to food.
- **Horizon Scanning Working Group** had identified a risk of duplicating efforts as there is already an established FSA workstream on horizon scanning with annual workshop events being held with input from the Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC). The Committee has subsequently decided that instead of a separate working group it would prefer to feed into horizon scanning alongside the SAC.

Minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> December meeting are published here: <https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acss5dec2019minutes.pdf>

**Next meeting:** The next open meeting of the ACSS is proposed for 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

## Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

The Committee's last meeting was on 30 January 2020. The following issues they considered include:

1. ACMSF Terms of Reference (The Committee discussed their terms of reference).  
<https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1321-terms-of-reference.pdf>
  
2. Ad Hoc Group on non-proteolytic *Clostridium botulinum* and vacuum and modified atmosphere packaged foods (The group presented their report to the full Committee for discussion and approval).  
[https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acmsf-vpmap-subgroup-report\\_1.pdf](https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acmsf-vpmap-subgroup-report_1.pdf)
  
3. Tickborne Encephalitis virus risks to public health (The Committee considered the FSA's risk assessment).  
<https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1323-tbev.pdf>
  
4. Food and You Survey: Wave 5 Findings (The Committee received a presentation from the FSA).  
<https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1324-food-and-you.pdf>
  
5. Areas Research Interest (The Committee agreed to comment on FSA's proposed areas of research interest).  
<https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1325-areas-of-research-interest.pdf>
  
6. Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group (Committee were briefed on the activities of EFIG).  
<https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1326-update-on-efig.pdf>
  
7. Proposed Horizon Scanning Workshop (The Committee were briefed on a horizon scanning workshop planned for Spring 2020).  
[https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1327-horizon-scanning\\_0.pdf](https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1327-horizon-scanning_0.pdf)
  
8. Update on estimates of norovirus burden. The Committee was updated on the findings of an FSA funded study on the estimation of norovirus burden attributed to the food chain.  
<https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/news/fsa-research-suggests-new-higher-estimates-for-the-role-of-food-in-uk-illness>
  
9. Information papers circulated to members include:
  - ACMSF's report on multidimensional representation of risks  
<https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1334-acmsf-risk-representation-report.pdf>

- EFSA Scientific Opinion: Whole genome sequencing and metagenomics for outbreak investigation, source attribution and risk assessment of food-borne microorganisms

<https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1336-efsa-opinion-wgs.pdf>

- EUROBAROMETER report for the UK 2019

<https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1335-eurobarometer-report-uk.pdf>

### **ACMSF subgroup activities January to June 2020**

10. The Committee's subgroup on incidents reviewed the following risk assessments recently published by the FSA.

- Risk assessment: coronavirus risk to UK consumers via shellfish and crops grown on land treated with sewage sludge

<https://www.food.gov.uk/document/risk-assessment-coronavirus-risk-to-uk-consumers-via-shellfish-and-crops-grown-on-land-treated-with-sewage-sludge>

- Qualitative Risk Assessment: What is the risk of food or food contact materials and surfaces being a source or transmission route of SARS-CoV-2 for UK consumers?

<https://www.food.gov.uk/research/research-projects/qualitative-risk-assessment-on-the-risk-of-food-or-food-contact-materials-as-a-transmission-route-for-sars-cov-2>

### **ACMSF Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance**

11. May/June 2020 the above group reviewed the FSA's survey of EU Harmonised Surveillance of AMR in bacteria from Retail Meats (Year 5 – Beef and Pork, 2019).

### **ACMSF Horizon Scanning Workshop**

12. The Committee had a virtual horizon scanning workshop on 15 June 2020. This was used to identify emerging microbiological food safety risks.

**The next ACMSF meeting** will be held on 22 October 2020.

### **Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)**

**Last meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

- **GM Guidance:** The Committee reviewed some of the EFSA GM guidance and commented on how they would like to assess these products in the future.
- **ACNFP Code of practice:** The Committee will review the revised code of practice from the SACS.
- **Novel Food Guidance Paper –** The Committee will discuss the EU guidance on Novel Foods to consider implications for full Novel Food Risk assessments.

**Next meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### **The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE)**

N/A

### **The Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)**

**Last meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019,

**Next meeting:** tbc

### **Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)**

**Last meeting –** 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The COC discussed the tumour micro-environment; followed up on horizon scanning; discussed the COC Annual report and the COC guidance statements, on points of Departure. The COC also discussed a presentation on the microbiome.

**Next meeting –** 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)**

**Last meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> June

The agenda included presentation on mutational spectra, finalising some COM guidance statements, finalising the report and paper from the 2 day workshop on

interpretation of genotoxicity data and the EFSA draft guidance on aneugenicity assessment.

**Next meeting:** November 2020

**Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)**

**Last meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Agenda items included Updates on SACN and SACN WG activities, nutrition and older adults in the community, low carbohydrate diets and diabetes, Covid related activities.

**Next meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**COT Secretariat**

July 2020