

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.

Committee	Recent activity	Further Information
<p>Science Council</p>	<p>Last Meeting: 24 June 2020 (Open session)</p> <p>The Science Council met in Open Plenary Session on the 24 June and the following topics were covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair’s report of the last 6 months activity. • FSA Science Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FSA Horizon Scanning update –COVID-19. ○ COVID-19: Update and impacts. • Updates on progress of Science Council’s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working Groups 4 on data usage and digital technology (draft final report) and; ○ Working Group 5 on food hypersensitivity (review of progress and changes to schedule due to COVID-19) • Discussion about development of an FSA Risk Communication Toolkit. • Discussion of engagement between Science Council members and other Scientific Advisory Committees over the last six months. <p>Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final report for Working Group 4 was presented to the FSA Board at their 26 August meeting. • An intermediate report for Working Group 5 was presented to the FSA Board at their 16 September meeting. 	<p>Chair: Professor Sandy Thomas</p> <p>Secretariat: sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://science-council.food.gov.uk/</p>

	<p>Next meeting: Open Plenary session on 3 December 2020.</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 16th June 2020 (Open Session)</p> <p>ACSS Update (October 2020)</p> <p>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 fifth time on 16th June 2020 to give updated on activities since the last Committee meeting (December 2019). Updates were given from each working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assurance Working Group Paul Turner from the Science Council attended the February 2020 workshop to ensure strong links between complimentary work being undertaken at both SACs. New processes of evaluation and impact capture were developed by the group and introduced to the social science team. • The EU Exit Working Group has been ended as part of completing several of the original questions posed. • The Risk Communications Group the communicating risk report was published and can be found here: https://www.food.gov.uk/research/research- 	<p>Chair: Professor Susan Michie</p> <p>Secretariat: acss@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acss.food.gov.uk/</p>

	<p>projects/communicating-risk. This drew on multiple research methods to inform development of a practical toolkit for communications personnel. The next steps will involve implementing the tools created.</p> <p>Minutes and papers from the 5th ACSS meeting are published here: https://acss.food.gov.uk/5thACSSPlenary</p> <p>Related to the EU Exit working group ending, there will be an additional meeting of the ACSS to discuss the topics for potential new working groups on October 15th.</p> <p>The next open meeting of the ACSS is proposed for 1st December 2020.</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 10th September 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COT CBD Position – The Committee discussed the COT's/FSA position on the data limitations and information surrounding CBD. • CBD Applications (Reserved business)- The Committee were asked to compare and contrast two CBD dossiers as a training exercise. • Request for Advice for CBD Applicants – The Committee considered a request for advice to CBD applicants regarding the specifications in the event of a joint application 	<p>Chair: Dr Camilla Alexander-White</p> <p>Secretariat: acnfp@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACNFP Code of Practice: The Committee discussed final changes to the Code of Practice. <p>Next meeting: 25th November 2020</p> <p>At their next meeting, which will be online, the Committee are considering two GE literature reviews and a report on the risk profile of edible Insects.</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)</p>	<p>Last meeting was on 30 January 2020. Issues they considered include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> 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 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 	<p>Chair: Professor Bill Keevil</p> <p>Secretariat: acmsf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/</p>

	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>9. Information papers circulated to members include:</p>	
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- 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 FSA's risk assessments published on 12 June 2020.

- 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->

	<p><u>food-contact-materials-as-a-transmission-route-for-sars-cov-2</u></p> <p>11. Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group in May/June 2020 reviewed the FSA's survey of EU Harmonised Surveillance of AMR in bacteria from Retail Meats (Year 5 – Beef and Pork, 2019).</p> <p>ACMSF Horizon Scanning Workshop</p> <p>12. The Committee had a virtual horizon scanning workshop on 15 June 2020. This was used to identify emerging microbiological food safety risks.</p> <p>The next ACMSF meeting will be held on 22 October 2020.</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 27th June 2019</p> <p>Next meeting: No dates set for 2020 meetings – Committee under review</p>	<p>Chair: -</p> <p>Secretariat: acaf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acaf.food.gov.uk/</p>

<p>Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)</p>	<p>Last meeting – 16th July 2020 The COC reviewed guidance statement overview and specific guidance statements, discussed the draft position paper on “The tumour microenvironment” and followed up on horizon scanning.</p> <p>Next meeting: 24th November 2020</p>	<p>Chair: Professor David Harrison</p> <p>Secretariat: COC@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committee-on-carcinogenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment-coc</p>
<p>The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 9 June 2020</p> <p>The agenda included a presentation on mutational spectra by Prof David Phillips, review of guidance statements and the guidance statement series update, COM response to the EFSA public consultation on the draft guidance on aneugenicity assessment and</p>	<p>Chair: Dr David Lovell</p> <p>Secretariat: COM@phe.gov.uk</p>

	<p>work on the report and paper from the workshop on interpretation of genotoxicity data held last year.</p> <p>Next meeting: 25 November 2020</p>	<p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment</p>
<p>Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 11 June 2020</p> <p>Agenda items include: Nutrition and older adults living in the community, Lower carbohydrate diets for adults with type 2 diabetes and Nutrition and Covid-19 related work.</p> <p>Next meeting: 20 November</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Ian Young</p> <p>Secretariat: SACN@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-</p>

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