

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: 17th Dec 2019 (Open session)

The Science Council met in Open Plenary Session on the 17th December and the following topics were covered:

- An update by the FSA Head of Science Strategy, Capability and Resilience (SSCR) on FSA work developing new Areas of Research Interest (ARI) and operationalising horizon scanning.
- Updates on progress of Science Council Working Groups 4 and Working Group 5.
- A discussion about the FSA Strategic Evidence Fund.
- Feedback on engagement between Science Council members and other Scientific Advisory Committees over the last quarter.

Next meeting: Open Plenary session on 24 June 2020.

Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

Last meeting: 30th January 2020.

- ACMSF Terms of Reference (The committee commented on their terms of reference).
- Ad Hoc Group on non-proteolytic Clostridium botulinum and vacuum and modified atmosphere packaged foods (The Chair of the Ad Hoc Group on non-proteolytic Clostridium botulinum and vacuum and modified atmosphere packaged foods presented the group's report for discussion).
- Tickborne Encephalitis virus risks to public health (The Committee commented on the draft risk assessment).
- Food and You Survey: Wave 5 Findings (The Committee received a presentation from the Food Standards Agency on the Food and You Survey: Wave 5 Findings).
- Areas Research Interest (The Committee received a presentation on the Food Standards Agency's proposed areas of research interest).

- Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group (Dr Paul Cook updated Members on the outcome of the EFIG meeting held on 6 December 2019).
- Proposed Horizon Scanning Workshop (The Committee was briefed on a proposed horizon scanning workshop).

Committee Updates

- Ad Hoc Group on QACs and Biocides used in food processing (The Chair of the group provided an update on the group's activities).
- 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 (Reserved business).

Information papers circulated to members include:

- ACMSF's report on multidimensional representation of risks
- EFSA Scientific Opinion: Whole genome sequencing and metagenomics for outbreak investigation, source attribution and risk assessment of food-borne microorganisms
- EUROBAROMETER report for the UK 2019

Next meeting: 25th June 2020.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last meeting: 29th February 2020.

- **Traditional Food Dossiers:** The Committee assessed a traditional food dossier for Roasted Sacha Inchi seeds. The summary has been consulted on and opinion published.
- **EFSA consultation:** The Committee was invited to consider and provide feedback on a guidance document from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on the requirements for whole genome sequence analysis of microorganisms intentionally used in the food chain.
- **FSA Areas of Research Interest:** The Committee reviewed and fed back on the FSA's current areas of research interests.
- **Follow-up to Allergy Workshop:** The Committee explored the outputs from last year's allergy workshop and how to take these forwards.

Next meeting: 29th April 2020

The agenda is subject to applications that are received ahead of the meeting but are likely to include discussion of notifications for traditional food from third countries and GM workshop.

The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE)

N/A

The Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

Last meeting: 27th June 2019,
Next meeting: 2nd June 2020 tbc

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

Last meeting – 12th 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 – 16th July 2020

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

Last meeting: 20th February 2020

There are three vacancies – two expert and one lay member. Three members including the chair are up for renewal.

The agenda included CBD, a guidance statement on QSAR models, Updates on the COM guidance statements, Update on Pig-A and follow up to the interpreting genotoxicity statement.

Next meeting: 9th June tbc

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)

Last meeting: 10 March 2020

Agenda items included position statement on nutrition in older adults, maternal nutrition and horizon scanning.

Next meeting: 11th June 2020

COT Secretariat

May 2020