

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

Paper for Information:

FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) update – March 2019 meeting

This paper provides Members with an update on the work of the Food Standards Agency's Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC) and other items of general interest.

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

<http://acaf.food.gov.uk/>

ACAF met on 27 February 2019. Items discussed at this meeting included:

- the future of SACS;
- feed additives; and
- raw pet food.

ACAF is scheduled to meet on 27 June 2019. We have not yet planned the agenda. Details of meetings and other information on the work of the Committee is available on the ACAF website.

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Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

<http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/>

ACMSF met on 18 October 2018. Committee's activities have been in its subgroups. These include:

- Ad Hoc Group on quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs), biocides and chlorine-based disinfectants used on food processing. Group is considering the issue of rule changes concerning plant protection products maximum residue levels: potential impact on food safety. ACMSF working with the FSA, Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food and Health and Safety Executive in analysing industry's responses to ACMSF's request for evidence¹ on industry's concerns on the implications of changes to the maximum residue levels for QACs, chlorine-based disinfectants and biocidal actives.
- Ad Hoc Group on Campylobacter. Group's report (Third report on Campylobacter) was published for public consultation on 7 March 2019.
- Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. Group has resumed its activities following the publication of the fixed-term task and finish report (AMR in the food chain; research questions and potential approaches²) that was presented to the FSA Board in September 2018.
- Ad Hoc group on risk assessment. Group setup in May 2018 has agreed its terms of reference and its approach. Group met in November 2018 and February 2019 and are presently working on their report.

¹ https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm_1291_mrl_letter.pdf

² <https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/amrtaskandfinish2.pdf>

- Working Group on New Emerging Pathogens. Recently considered the FSA's literature review on risks of consuming human placenta.

Draft minutes of the October 2018 ACMSF meeting is available at:

https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm_min_92.pdf

The Committee's work plan can be found at:

https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm_1287_workplan.pdf

The Next plenary meeting is scheduled for 11 April 2019.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

<https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/>

The next ACNFP meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7th May 2019.

- 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
- We will also be reviewing the annual report and associated governance processes to ensure these are up to date.

Details of meetings and other information on the work of the Committee is available on the ACNFP website

Advisory Committee on Science Council (ACSS)

<https://acss.food.gov.uk/>

The ACSS will next meet on 2 April. Agenda items include:

- Working group updates from the Risk Communications and Behavioural Science sub-groups
- Presentation of final report and recommendations from the Food and You sub-group on their review of the Food and You survey
- 12-month review of the ACSS
- Future priorities / projects for the ACSS
- How the ACSS can provide assurance on social science in the FSA

Further information on the Committee can be found on the ACSS website

Science Council

<https://food.gov.uk/committee/science-council>

The Science Council met in 'Working Group Configuration' on 6th March. Working Group 4 (data usage and digital technology) heard from the FSA Head of the Surveillance as the last of a series of exploratory interviews on data usage across the Department.

Working Group 4 also heard from the FSA Data Fellow, Dr Anatol Wegner, and ACSS members Julie Hill and George Gaskell, in relation to data interest cross-over in the ACSS's Food and You Survey review and as wider good committee practice.

The Working Group 4 Chair, Prof Patrick Wolfe, is working with the Secretariat to produce a short Phase 1 report, collating key reflections from discussions thus far.

The Working Group 4 Chair, the CSA and Secretariat are in discussion with The Alan Turing Institute and the Internet of Food Things Network with respect to Phase 2 commissionings. Working Group 3 (global food systems risks and horizon scanning) is finalising its report for hand over to the FSA. Working Group 3 discussed its drafted recommendations to the FSA and any required alterations or additions. The Working Group 3 final report and an initial FSA response will be available to the FSA Board in June 2019.

Next meeting: Open plenary meeting 27th June 2019

Meeting agenda to include implementation update by the Executive following hand-over and response to Working Group 1 & 2 recommendations at the Board in December 2018---

**Secretariat
March 2019**