

**Update March 2021:** Recent activity of the Scientific Advisory Committees

**TOX/2021/19**

**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.

**Secretariat  
March 2021**

This document summarises the recent activity of the FSA's Scientific Advisory Committees. We highlight topics discussed at the most recent meeting and agenda items for the next meeting.

Committee	Recent activity	Further Information
<b>Science Council</b>	<p><b>Last open meeting:</b> 3 Dec 2020 (Open session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FSA Chief Executive, Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) and Head of Food Safety Policy explained practical issues facing the FSA from 1 January 2021.</li> <li>• An update on progress of Working Group 5 on food hypersensitivity was given by the review lead, including plans for a horizon scan workshop to be held in March 2021.</li> <li>• The FSA CSA and Head of SSCR discussed developments in FSA science, and EU Exit.</li> <li>• The Science Council was updated on a new rapid evidence review, to codify minimum quality standards for evidence submitted to the FSA.</li> <li>• Council members gave a brief read-out of SACs meetings they had attended.</li> <li>• The Chair discussed her last 6 months activity and looked forward to 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next open meeting:</b> 10 June 2021</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Professor Sandy Thomas</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b> <a href="mailto:sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk">sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://science-council.food.gov.uk/">https://science-council.food.gov.uk/</a></p>
<b>Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)</b>	<p><b>Updated:</b> 19/01/2021 (PL)</p> <p><b>Last meeting:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – Open session</p> <p><b>ACSS Update (October 2020)</b></p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Professor Susan Michie</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 on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working groups: assignment of members and Chair to each of the new working groups (Kitchen Life and Climate Change).</li> <li>• Update from Prof. Sandy Thomas on the working group outputs from the Science Council</li> <li>• Catriona McCallion presented the progress from the third-party evidence review</li> <li>• The ACSS workplan for 2021 was discussed alongside ongoing collaboration with the Science Council.</li> <li>• Previous Food and You working group members, Professor Ann Murcott and Joy Dobbs presented a paper on the origins of Food and You.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Minutes and papers from the 6<sup>th</sup> ACSS meeting.</a></p> <p>The next open meeting of the ACSS is in June 2021.</p>	<p><b>Secretariat:</b> acss@food.gov.uk</p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://acss.food.gov.uk/">https://acss.food.gov.uk/</a></p>
<p><b>Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)</b></p>	<p><b>Last meeting:</b> 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CBD Application (Reserved business)</b>-The Committee reviewed a CBD dossier as a training exercise</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Camilla Alexander-White</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on ongoing work between the FSA, UKAS and LGC-</b> The Committee were provided an update on analytical methods relating to CBD and other cannabinoids</li> <li>• <b>DEFRA consultation on the Regulation of Genetic Technologies-</b> The Committee will be provided an update on the consultation</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021</p> <p>At their next meeting, which will be online, the Committee are discussing the Defra consultation response drafted by the GM Working Group. They will also be considering a new novel food application-Mung Bean Protein.</p>	<p><b>Secretariat:</b> <a href="mailto:acnfp@food.gov.uk">acnfp@food.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/">https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/</a></p>
<p><b>Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)</b></p>	<p>Last meeting was on 22 October 2020. Issues they considered include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Horizon Scanning Workshop Output (The Committee considered the draft final version of the output from the June horizon scanning workshop). Final version to be published later.</li> <li>2. Review of the ACMSF report on vacuum packaging and associated processes (The Committee discussed the subgroup on non-proteolytic C. botulinum and vacuum and modified atmosphere packaged foods recommendation for the above</li> </ol>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Professor Bill Keevil</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b> <a href="mailto:acmsf@food.gov.uk">acmsf@food.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/">https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/</a></p>

report published in 1992 to be reviewed and to identify priority areas of work for consideration). [Link](#)

3. Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group (Members were updated on the outcome of the group's meeting held on 6 October 2020). [Link](#)
4. STEC Research in Scotland (The Committee received a presentation from Food Standards Scotland on STEC research in Scotland). [Link](#)
5. Committee Update (The Committee received updates from the following subgroups: Ad Hoc Group on incidents, Working Group on AMR, Surveillance Working group, Ad Hoc Group on QACs and Biocides used in food processing).

**Information papers circulated to Members include:**

6. TBEV: draft risk assessment in relation to food. [Link](#)
7. Annual update on the FSA's Antimicrobial resistance programme. [Link](#)
8. ACMSF Work plan. [Link](#)
9. Items of interest from the literature. [Link](#)
10. Risk assessment: coronavirus risk to UK consumers via shellfish and crops grown on land treated with sewage sludge. [Link](#)

	<p>11. Risk Assessment: risk of food or food contact materials and surfaces being a source or transmission route of SARS-CoV-2 for UK consumers? <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>12. FAO guide to ranking food safety risks at national level. <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>Draft minutes of the above meeting can be found at on the ACMSF website. <a href="#">Link</a></p> <p>Next meeting: To be decided</p>	
<p><b>Advisory Committee on Animal Feeding stuffs (ACAF)</b></p>	<p><b>Last meeting:</b> 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> No dates set for 2020 meetings – Committee under review.</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> -</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b> <a href="mailto:acaf@food.gov.uk">acaf@food.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://acaf.food.gov.uk/">https://acaf.food.gov.uk/</a></p>
<p><b>Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)</b></p>	<p><b>Last meeting:</b> 2nd February 2021</p> <p>Topics discussed included Vitamin D in the maternal diet, Biologically-based Food Contact Materials (including chitosan), variable lifetime</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Professor Alan Boobis</p>

	<p>exposure, EFSA consultation on non-monotonic dose response relationship.</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021</p>	<p><b>Secretariat:</b> cot@food.gov.uk</p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://cot.food.gov.uk/">https://cot.food.gov.uk/</a></p>
<p><b>Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)</b></p>	<p><b>Last meeting: 11th March 2021</b></p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <p>Human biomonitoring, the draft SETE report, biological relevance and statistical significance, third party evidence and guidance statements on biomonitoring and weight of evidence approaches.</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Professor David Harrison</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b> <a href="mailto:COC@phe.gov.uk">COC@phe.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committee-on-carcinogenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment-coc">https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committee-on-carcinogenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment-coc</a></p>

<p><b>The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)</b></p>	<p><b>Last meeting:</b> 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021</p> <p>Topics discussed included: COM Overarching Guidance Document Finalising guidance statements on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germ Cell Mutagens</li> <li>• 3D Models</li> <li>• Impurities</li> <li>• QSAR</li> </ul> <p>Toxicogenomics</p> <p>Presentation on trans-generational epigenetics.</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> June 2021</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr David Lovell</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b> <a href="mailto:COM@phe.gov.uk">COM@phe.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment</a></p>
<p><b>Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)</b></p>	<p><b>Last meeting:</b> 10 March 2021</p> <p>Nutrition and maternal health, iron and bioavailability, iodine.</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Professor Ian Young</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b> <a href="mailto:SACN@phe.gov.uk">SACN@phe.gov.uk</a></p>



**Website:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-committee-on-nutrition>