

**TOX/2021/27**

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

**UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

For information

**Purpose**

This paper topics being considered by other Scientific Advisory Committees that may be of interest to COT.

**Secretariat  
May 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
<p><b>Science Council</b></p>	<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>

<p><b>Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)</b></p>	<p><b>Updated: 13/04/2021 (SB)</b>  <b>Last meeting:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – Open session</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><b>Activity since the last meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first meeting of the Kitchen Life working group has been held.</li> <li>• Continuing to develop plans for a workshop to define work of the climate change and consumer behaviour working group.</li> <li>• Starting the SAC appraisal exercise in April/May.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair:</b>  Professor  Susan Michie</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>
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	The next open meeting of the ACSS is 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2021.	
<b>Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)</b>	<p><b>Last meeting:</b> 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mung Bean Protein</b> - The Committee considered this new novel food application.</li> <li>• <b>Barley Rice Protein</b> - The Committee considered this new novel food application</li> <li>• <b>CBD Feedback Summary (Reserved Business)</b> - The Committee considered the feedback summary to be provided to the applicant.</li> <li>• <b>Annual Report</b> - The Committee reviewed the annual report to ensure that it was accurate and reflected the work of the Committee in 2020.</li> <li>• <b>GM Application (Reserved Business)</b> - The Committee discussed a process question regarding a GM application.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Dr Camilla Alexander-White</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>
<b>Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)</b>	<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> </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>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><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 report published in 1992 to be reviewed and to identify priority areas of work for consideration). <a href="#">Link</a></li><li>3. Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group (Members were updated on the outcome of the group's meeting held on 6 October 2020). <a href="#">Link</a></li><li>4. STEC Research in Scotland (The Committee received a presentation from Food Standards Scotland on STEC research in Scotland). <a href="#">Link</a></li><li>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).</li></ol> <p><b>Information papers circulated to Members include:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. TBEV: draft risk assessment in relation to food. <a href="#">Link</a></li><li>7. Annual update on the FSA's Antimicrobial resistance programme. <a href="#">Link</a></li><li>8. ACMSF Work plan. <a href="#">Link</a></li><li>9. Items of interest from the literature. <a href="#">Link</a></li></ol>	<p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/">https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/</a></p>
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	<p>10. Risk assessment: coronavirus risk to UK consumers via shellfish and crops grown on land treated with sewage sludge. <a href="#">Link</a></p> <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: Monday 19 April 2021</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 2021 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> 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021  Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential effects that excess iodine intake may have during preconception, pregnancy and lactation</li> <li>• Development of Human Biomonitoring Guidance Values</li> <li>• in the HBM4EU biomonitoring project</li> <li>• Update to the COT Position paper on the potential risk of CBD in CBD food products</li> <li>• Draft report on the synthesis and integration of epidemiological and toxicological evidence in risk assessments.</li> <li>• First draft non-technical statement on how the Committees evaluate the relevance and reliability of data when assessing a chemical of concern?</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b>  Professor Alan Boobis</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:</b> 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021</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> Profess or 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-">https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committee-on-</a></p>

		<a href="#">carcinogenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment-coc</a>
<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>



<b>Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)</b>	<b>Last meeting:</b> 10 March 2021  Nutrition and maternal health, iron and bioavailability, iodine.  <b>Next meeting:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	<b>Chair:</b> Professor Ian Young  <b>Secretariat:</b> <a href="mailto:SACN@phe.gov.uk">SACN@phe.gov.uk</a>  <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-committee-on-nutrition">https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-committee-on-nutrition</a>
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