

**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  
August 2021**

## Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC) Summary of recent activities

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

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Committee	Recent activity	Further Information
Science Council	<p><b>Updated:</b> June 2021</p> <p><b>Last open meeting:</b> 10 June 2021 (Open session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair presented a summary of the last 6 month’s Science Council activity.</li> </ul>	<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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The members agreed the principles &amp; guidelines and final report for the critical review of the appraisal of third-party evidence.</li> <li>• Update on FSA activity since last year’s Council recommendations on data usage &amp; digital technology (WG4). Further Council engagement is being considered.</li> <li>• The CSA updated the Council on his recent activity and discussions (including gene editing, labelling reform, genomic surveillance and net zero carbon).</li> <li>• A discussion of the recommendations from the Council food hypersensitivity review (WG5), FSA current activity and future plans in this area, and lessons learnt.</li> <li>• Updates of Science Council attending Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs).</li> </ul> <p><b>Next open meeting:</b> 9 December 2021</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:</b> June 2021  <b>Last meeting:</b> 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 – 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 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle Patel and Tim Johnston updated on key projects within the FSAs analytics unit.</li> <li>• Working groups provided updates at their various work stages, with particular focus on the new Climate Change and Consumer Behaviour working group and the need to work closely with the science council, and identify other relevant work (within the FSA, and internationally).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Professor Susan Michie</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b>  <a href="mailto:acss@food.gov.uk">acss@food.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b>  <a href="https://acss.food.gov.uk/">https://acss.food.gov.uk/</a></p>

- Update from Prof. Sandy Thomas on the working group outputs from the Science Council.
- Presentations were given on Food and You 2 Wave 1 results, and key messages from the climate change and consumer behaviour expert workshop. Key findings from both were discussed.
- The secretariat are exploring how best to utilise the website and will circulate a paper to this effect.

Minutes and papers from the 7<sup>th</sup> ACSS meeting are to be added to the website in due course.

**Recent activity:**

- The first meeting of the *Kitchen Life* working group has been held as part of the wider Advisory group for the project to review the literature review recently conducted. Following the meeting it was agreed that Basis would review the research approach to reflect some of the suggestions made and risk assessment at the FSA would be assessed so the research can better suit its needs. Further involvement for the group is planned in an ad hoc capacity to help with the ethics process.
- The aim of the ACSS working group on *climate change and consumer behaviour* is to map emerging and potential consumer behaviour trends onto the FSA's objectives in order to inform FSA policy in the coming years. A workshop was held mid-May to support that aim by:
  - fast-tracking understanding of the current thinking and research in this area,
  - facilitating deliberation and focus of the ACSS working group, increasing potential for strategic impact
  - enabling the working group to identify and network with the research community in this area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariat conducting the SAC appraisal exercise.</li> </ul> <p>The <b>next open meeting</b> of the ACSS is in December 2021.</p>	
<b>Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)</b>	<p><b>Updated:</b> - June 2021</p> <p><b>Last meeting:</b> 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Calcidiol</b> - The Committee considered this new novel food application.</li> <li>• <b>Go Wolffia</b>- The Committee considered this new traditional food application</li> <li>• <b>CBD Feedback Summary (Reserved Business)</b> - The Committee considered the revised feedback summary to be provided to the applicant.</li> <li>• <b>ToR &amp; CoP</b>- The Committee reviewed and provided comment to suggested updates to the Committee's Terms of Reference and Code of Practice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 15<sup>th</sup> September 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><b>Updated:</b> May 2021</p> <p>The Committee's last meeting was on 19 April 2021. The issues they considered include:</p>	<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>

[Proposed working group on botulinum toxin-producing Clostridia and vacuum packaging and associated processes](#) (the committee discussed the FSA's request concerning the ACMSF report on vacuum packaging and associated processes published in 1992).

[Literature review on botulism in cattle, sheep and goats: 2006 to 2021](#) (members commented on the FSA's revised systematic literature review concerning botulism in cattle, sheep, and goats. ACMSF published reports on these issues in 2006 and 2009).

[Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group](#) (the committee was updated on the activities of EFIG).

Update on Horizon Scanning workshop (the FSA provided an update on several of the issues raised at the horizon scanning workshop held in June 2020)

*Campylobacter* source attribution (Oxford study) (the committee received a presentation on the findings of this study).

Update on subgroup activities:

Emerging Pathogens Working Group (the committee noted that this group revised the [opinion it provided the FSA on risk-based considerations associated with consumption of human placenta](#)).

Antimicrobial Resistance and Surveillance Working Groups (these groups commented on the FSA's Survey of AMR in *C. jejuni* and *C. coli* and levels of *Campylobacter* contamination in fresh whole UK-produced chilled chickens at retail sale (non-major retailers)).

**Website:**

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

	<p>Subgroup on regulated products (members noted that ACMSF this subgroup has been setup to consider risk assessment matters relating to regulated products).</p> <p>FSA Social Science study on food safety behaviour in kitchens (member representing ACMSF on the Advisory group supporting study updated the committee on the activities of this group).</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 21 October 2021</p>	
<p><b>Advisory Committee on Animal Feeding stuffs (ACAF)</b></p>	<p><b>Updated:</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>Updated:</b> August 2021</p> <p><b>Last meeting:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021</p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• alternatives to conventional plastics for food &amp; drinks packaging</li> <li>• the potential human health risks of bamboo bio-composites in food contact materials</li> <li>• the recent EFSA opinion on titanium dioxide</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Professor Alan Boobis</p> <p><b>Secretariat:</b> <a href="mailto:cot@food.gov.uk">cot@food.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Draft EFSA Scientific Committee Opinion on the scientific criteria for grouping chemicals into assessment groups for the human risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals</li> <li>• UK new approach methodologies roadmap</li> <li>• second draft statement on PFAS</li> <li>• draft SETE report on the synthesis and integration of epidemiological and toxicological evidence in risk assessments</li> <li>• the substatement on the potential risks from exposure to microplastics (oral route)</li> <li>• <b>Next meeting:</b> 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021</li> </ul>	<a href="https://cot.food.gov.uk/">https://cot.food.gov.uk/</a>
<b>Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)</b>	<p><b>Updated:</b> August 2021</p> <p><b>Last meeting:</b> 15th July 2021 Topics on the agenda included:</p> <p>Revised SETE report, updates to guidance statements (use of biomarkers, hazard identification and characterisation, alternatives to the 2 year bioassay), Terms of Reference for the OPSS Scientific Advisory Group</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 18 November 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>Updated:</b> June 2021</p> <p><b>Last meeting:</b> 10 June 2021</p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of EFSA opinion on titanium dioxide</li> <li>• Horizon scanning</li> <li>• Dose-response and genotoxicity presentation</li> <li>• Draft paper on Toxicogenomics and Next Generation Sequencing</li> <li>• Nanomaterial Testing paper</li> <li>• Mini-Ames assay presentation</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 12 October 2021</p> <p><b>Further meetings:</b></p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Prof Gareth Jenkins</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/organizations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment">https://www.gov.uk/government/organizations/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>Updated:</b> June 2021</p> <p><b>Last meeting:</b> 10th June</p> <p>Nutrition and COVID-19, Feeding young children aged 12-60 months, plant-based drinks</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 10th November 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> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-">https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-</a></p>

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