

TOX/2021/64

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

Secretariat

December 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.

Contents

Committee	Recent activity	Further Information
Science Council	Updated: June 2021 Last open meeting: 10 June 2021 (Open session) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chair presented a summary of the last 6 month's Science Council activity.• The members agreed the principles & guidelines and final report for the critical review of the appraisal of third-party evidence.• Update on FSA activity since last year's Council recommendations on data usage & digital technology (WG4). Further Council engagement is being considered.	Chair: Professor Sandy Thomas Secretariat: sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk Website: Here

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSA updated the Council on his recent activity and discussions (including gene editing, labelling reform, genomic surveillance and net zero carbon). • A discussion of the recommendations from the Council food hypersensitivity review (WG5), FSA current activity and future plans in this area, and lessons learnt. • Updates of Science Council attending Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs). <p>Next open meeting: 9 December 2021</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)</p>	<p>Updated: Nov 2021 Last meeting: 22nd June 2021 (Open session). Key agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA updated on key projects within the Analytics Unit. • 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). • 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. <p>Minutes and papers from the 7th ACSS meeting are available here.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Susan Michie Secretariat: acss@food.gov.uk Website: Here</p>

Working group highlights:

- The *Climate Change and Consumer Behaviour* working group are planning a second stage workshop, following the expert engagement exercise in May which aimed to map the consumer behaviour trends influenced by climate change concerns (a summary of this work is available [here](#)). A second workshop is currently being planned to engage across the FSA to explore possible next steps.
- The *Assurance* working group have commissioned a piece of work to develop a 'good science' quality assurance toolkit to support the production of high-quality research.
- The *Kitchen Life 2* working group continues to support the research project Kitchen Life 2, where Wave 1 of fieldwork is nearly complete. Initial findings from the pilot and wave 1 will be available in late November. Wave 2 recruitment has also commenced.
- The Committee are discussing a new working group to guide the *Wider Consumer Interests* social research programme.

The **next open meeting** of the ACSS is the 26th January 2022.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)	<p>Updated: - November 2021</p> <p>Last meeting: 24th November 2021</p> <p>In addition to dossiers on mung bean protein, Calcidiol and a new dossier Cetylated fatty acids, preparatory work as reserved business for the Committee's review of further CBD dossiers and managing the future work on GM and Genome Editing (GE) food and feed products was discussed.</p> <p>Next meeting: 2nd February 2022</p>	<p>Chair: Dr Camilla Alexander-White</p> <p>Secretariat: acnfp@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: Here</p>
Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)	<p>Updated: November 2021</p> <p>The Committee's last meeting was on 21 October 2021. The issues they considered include:</p> <p>Work of the committee's subgroup on toxin-producing Clostridia in food. An update was presented to the committee on the activities of this group setup in April 2021.</p> <p>Botulism in cattle, sheep, and goats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FSA's revised systematic literature review concerning botulism in cattle, sheep, and goats was presented to the committee for comments • Members received an update on the recommendations made on the ACMSF reports on botulism in cattle, sheep, and goats <p>Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group. The committee received a:</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Bill Keevil</p> <p>Secretariat: acmsf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: Here</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report on the outcome of the 9 June 2021 EFIG meeting • response to comments made by members on EFIG reports • presentation from the UK Health Security Agency on the use of whole genome sequencing for gastrointestinal pathogen routine surveillance and outbreak detection and investigation <p>Food and You 2 – Wave 1. The Committee received a presentation on the FSA’s survey: Food and You 2: Wave 1 findings.</p> <p>The FSA’s Foodborne Disease Policy Framework. The committee discussed and commented on this draft framework in closed session.</p> <p>Next meeting: February 2022</p> <p>Updated – 4 November 2021</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee on Animal Feeding stuffs (ACAF)</p>	<p>Updated: -</p> <p>Last meeting: 27th June 2019</p> <p>Next meeting: No dates set for 2021 meetings – Committee under review.</p>	<p>Chair: -</p> <p>Secretariat: acaf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: Here</p>

<p>Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)</p>	<p>Updated: November 2021 Last meeting: 26th October 2021 Topics discussed included: At their October meeting the Committee discussed items including an update on the safety of ginger supplement use in pregnancy, further information on the potential health risks of bamboo food contact materials and part 1 of a discussion paper on the risk assessment of cow's milk in children aged 1 to 5 years, in the context of the previous evaluation of plant based drinks. The Committee also finalised the draft statement on Vitamin D and the potential effects that excess vitamin D intake may have during preconception, pregnancy and lactation and the sub-statement on the potential risk(s) from exposure to microplastics via the oral route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting: 7th December 2021 	<p>Chair: Professor Alan Boobis Secretariat: cot@food.gov.uk Website: Here</p>
<p>Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)</p>	<p>Updated: November 2021 Last meeting: 18th November Topics on the agenda included: Horizon scanning, update to guidance statement on alternatives to the assessment of potential carcinogenicity, presentation on patient derived cell models.</p> <p>Next meeting: 2 March 2022</p> <p>Further meetings: 21 July 2022 17 November 2022</p>	<p>Chair: Professor David Harrison Secretariat: COC@phe.gov.uk Website: Here</p>

<p>The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)</p>	<p>Updated: October 2021 Last meeting: 12 October 2021</p> <p>Topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of EFSA opinion on titanium dioxide • Hydroxyanthracene derivatives in supplements • Horizon scanning • Draft Annual Report for 2020 • OECD Draft Detailed Review Paper on the Miniaturised Versions of the Bacterial Reverse Gene Mutation Test • QSAR and Genotoxicity <p>Next meeting: 1 March 2022</p> <p>Further meetings: 9 June 2022 13 October 2022</p>	<p>Chair: Prof Gareth Jenkins</p> <p>Secretariat: COM@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: Here</p>
<p>Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)</p>	<p>Updated: November 2021 Last meeting: 10th November</p> <p>Nutrition and COVID-19, Feeding young children aged 12-60 months, folic acid and National Diet and Nutrition Survey blood analytes, horizon scanning.</p> <p>Next meeting: 11th March 2022</p> <p>Further meetings: Friday 17th June 2022;</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Ian Young</p> <p>Secretariat: SACN@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: Here</p>

Friday 11th Nov 2022