Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

Committee on TOXICITY

Proposed approach to risk benefit assessment of timing of introduction of peanut and egg into the infant diet

Background

1. An assessment of the risks and benefits associated with introducing peanut and egg into the infant diet at 4-11 months and 4-6 months, respectively, is required. The Benefit-Risk Analysis for Foods (BRAFO) approach is currently being utilised by the COT:SACN subgroup on sodium replacers, and it is considered that this methodology may be utilised here.

BRAFO methodology

2. BRAFO is a tiered approach for the assessment of risks and benefits associated with foods. Further information on the BRAFO methodology can be found in Hoekstra *et al* (2012) as [annex] 1 to this paper.

3. A pre-assessment and problem formulation are conducted to define the scope of the assessment. This process involves defining a reference scenario (usually the current situation) and comparing the impact of changing from the reference scenario with one or more 'alternative' scenarios.

4. It is anticipated that the assessments for this evidence base will be carried out at Tier 1, which identifies and assesses individual risks and benefits. A Tier 2 assessment, which qualitatively integrates the risks and benefits identified at Tier 1, may be required. It is unlikely that this risk benefit assessment will include assessment at Tiers 3 and 4, which involve quantitative integration of the risks and benefits.

5. It is proposed that the risks and benefits of the timing of introduction of egg and peanut into the infant diet are assessed independently. Two papers have been prepared that have summarised the evidence base for timing of introduction of peanut and egg into the infant diet and a reduced risk of peanut and egg allergy, respectively. Reference and alternative scenarios have been proposed and a number of health effects have been identified which may be used as the starting point for assessing the health effects at

Tier 1. These papers are included in this meeting pack (SACN COT/Allergenic/16/05 and SACN COT/Allergenic/16/06).