

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

Joint Statement from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition and the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in food, Consumer products and the Environment: Assessing the health benefits and risks of the introduction of peanut and egg into the infant diet before six months of age in the UK (RESERVED BUSINESS)

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) requested its Subgroup on Maternal and Child Nutrition (SMCN) to review recent developments in infant and young child feeding in the UK. To complement this work, the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) conducted a review of the risks of toxicity from chemicals in the infant diet, and examined the evidence relating to the influence of infant diet on development of food allergy, and atopic and auto-immune disease. A joint SACN-COT working group was established to undertake a benefit:risk assessment on the timing of introduction of allergenic foods into the infant diet. The COT statement identified significant findings related to the timing of introduction of peanut and hen's egg into the infant diet and the risk of developing peanut and hen's egg allergy respectively, and the working group therefore restricted its assessment to these foods.

This paper summarises the findings of the working group and provides consensus advice to government.

The sub-group met on the 9th December 2016 and 17th March 2017. They considered the data on the early introduction of allergenic foods into the infant diet. Their conclusions can be found in the attached statement.

Questions on which the views of the Committee are sought

Members are asked to consider the statement and provide any comments they may have. In particular:

- i) Do members consider that the joint SACN/COT working group has met its aims and objectives?
- ii) Do Members consider that the current document provides sufficient information and guidance to inform government policy, or is further work needed?

- iii) If changes are needed, what changes to format or additional information, if any, do Members consider should be included?

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This is a draft document and not yet publically available

Secretariat
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