

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Purpose

1. This paper outlines issues from other advisory committees that may be of interest to COT.

Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)

Last meeting: 2nd April 2019

The Committee met for the third time on 2 April 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

- **Working group updates** – The Risk Communication and Behavioural Science Working Groups gave updates on activities since the last Committee meeting (Dec 18). Update papers can be found here: <https://acss.food.gov.uk/acss-meetings/acss-meetings/acss-meeting-2nd-april>. The Risk Communication group has reviewed the risk communications guidance which will sit alongside the FSA's new risk assessment framework. The Behavioural Science group have identified three priority areas for the FSA to design and pilot behavioural interventions: allergens, business registration, and Caloriewise. Both groups have been formally wrapped up but will continue to advise on risk communication and behavioural science matters on an ad hoc basis going forward.
- **Review of Food and You** – Chair of the Food and You Review Working Group, Professor George Gaskell, presented recommendations on the future direction of the FSA's Food and You survey. The full report and recommendations can be found here: <https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fandyoursurvey.pdf>. It was agreed that this working group will formally wrap up but will be replaced by a 'task force' to implement the recommendations from the review.
- **Future priorities** – The Committee established three new working groups looking at EU exit, horizon scanning, and assurance. The Committee will be presenting an annual update paper at the January FSA Board meeting.

Minutes from the meeting are published here: <https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/minutesapril.pdf>

The next open meeting of the ACSS will be on 5 December 2019.

Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

Last meeting: 18th October 2018

- The ACMSF reviewed their opinion on Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) in raw and ready-to-eat foods, discussed latest evidence on *Clostridium botulinum* in vacuum packed chilled foods, including recent work undertaken at Campden BRI and Quadram Institute. Discussed the FSA's revised Surveillance Strategy, outcomes from the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group meeting in July, and how to take forward outcomes from January 2018 horizon scanning workshop.
- Recent subgroup activity includes:
 - Ad Hoc Group on quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs), biocides and chlorine-based disinfectants used on food processing. Group is considering the issue of rule

changes concerning plant protection products maximum residue levels and their potential impact on food safety. ACMSF is working with the FSA, Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food and Health and Safety Executive in analysing industry's responses to ACMSF's [request for evidence](#) on industry's concerns on the implications of these changes.

- Ad Hoc Group on Campylobacter. The Group's report (Third report on *Campylobacter*) was published for public consultation on 7 March 2019.
- Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. Group has resumed its activities following the publication of the fixed-term task and finish report ([AMR in the food chain; research questions and potential approaches](#)) that was presented to the FSA Board in September 2018.
- Ad Hoc Group on Risk Assessment. Group was setup in May 2018 and has agreed its terms of reference and its approach. Group met in November 2018 and February 2019 and are presently working on their report.
- Working Group on New Emerging Pathogens. Recently considered the FSA's literature review on risks of consuming human placenta.
- ACMSF met on 27 June 2019. Items discussed at this meeting included:
 - FSA's guidance on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods (the Committee was updated on this issue with a proposed way forward to review non-proteolytic *Clostridium botulinum* risks in the context of the FSA's guidance on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods)
 - Ad Hoc Group on Risk Assessment Report (the Committee received a presentation on a proposed new risk assessment framework)
 - Ad Hoc Group on *Campylobacter* Report (the Committee was updated with a summary of responses received and the amended draft final report for consideration)
 - Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group (the Committee was updated on the outcome of the EFIG meetings held 18 January and 14 June 2019)
 - Committee updates (on the activities of the following subgroups)
 - Ad Hoc Group on quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs) and Biocides used in food processing
 - Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance
 - Newly Emerging Pathogens Working Group
 - *Review of alternative interventions in poultry processing (Reserved Business) – the Committee discussed the FSA's literature review of alternative interventions in poultry processing.*
 - Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland Risk Analysis Guidelines (Reserved Business) – the Committee was updated on the work undertaken on risk analysis by FSA and FSS in preparation for UK's Exit from the EU.

Next meeting: 17th October 2019.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

2. Last meeting: 11th of September

- Traditional Food Dossiers: No traditional Food Dossiers discussed
- **Risk Analysis Guidelines:** The ACNFP convened for a teleconference meeting on the 11th of September. In the meeting, the discussion focused development of the risk analysis guidelines. The Committee provided insight on the tier 2 and tiers 3 of the guidelines. The comments were captured by the FSA and provided to Jo Edge.

Next meeting: 27th November:

The agenda is subject to applications that are received ahead of the meeting but are likely to include discussion of notifications for traditional food from third countries. The meeting will be the last meeting of the year and may contain a training work shop on GM dossiers and allergy.

FSA Science Council

Last Meeting: 27th June 2019 (Open session)

The Science Council met in Open Plenary Session on the 27th June and the following key areas were covered:

- A report was given by the Science Council Chair on how she and the FSA are exploring the building of stronger relationships with other Scientific Advisory Committees within the FSA and wider Government.
- The Chief Scientific Adviser reported on the Science Capability Review, a cross-government exercise commissioned by Treasury, and the recent National Audit Office report on the FSA.
- The FSA's Deputy Director of Science updated the Science Council on the implementation of the [Science Councils Working Group 1 and 2](#) recommendations, informing members that the FSA has made good progress in building science capacity well as developing a robust risk analysis process.
- In a report on Working Group 3 on Horizon Scanning, its Chair Prof John O'Brien informed members that that groups [report and recommendations](#) had been welcomed by the Board and the FSA Chair, Heather Hancock, had thanked the Working Group for its work, saying that what had been delivered was in excess of expectations. Going forward the FSA will ensure that high-level horizon scanning is embedded into the FSA's work.
- The [Working Group 4](#) Chair, Prof Patrick Wolfe reported on discussions on the Internet of Food Things Network (IoFT) and Data Trust Proof-of-Value study that will be delivered in 12 months. Following discussions at the FSA Board on food hypersensitivity, there was a closed workshop after the morning plenary meeting to consider how the Science Council may provide further support and assurance in this area, with the FSA Director of Policy, Rebecca Sudworth.

Update

The Working Group Workshop on **12th Sept 2019** unpicked what the Science Council can do to support FSA initiatives on Food Hypersensitivity, discussing Terms of Reference for a new working group. Progress on Working Group 4 was also discussed with an updated delivery schedule proposed and timing for delivery of the Phase 1 report. Finally, the Science Council

started to explore key principles when setting outcome-based measures to determined success.

Next meeting: Open Plenary session on 17 December 2019.

This meeting will include discussion of progress on Working Group 4 and the new Working Group 5 on food hypersensitivity.

The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE)

The Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

Last meeting: 27th June 2019

FSA officials updated the committee on the future plans for SACs including ACAF.

The Chairman of the working group on feed additives and over supplementation updated members on the outcome of the fourth meeting of the sub-group held in June 2019. The Committee discussed how recommendations from the working group could be progressed.

The ACAF Secretariat provided members with an update on future potential options for how the FSA could access their advice in the future.

Steve Wyllie (APHA) presented a further revised draft guidance document covering the issue of raw pet food. Members were invited to comment and clear the guidance for publication.

Next meeting: Provisional date 12 February 2020 set.

Next meeting: 2020 – date to be confirmed.

Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)

Last meeting: 7th November 2019

The Committee heard a presentation on Toxtracker and considered items including; a guidance statement on potency estimation and points of departure; risk assessment of carcinogenicity, risk assessment of multiple exposure. The committee then undertook some horizon scanning.

Next meeting: Thursday 12th March 2020

The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)

Last meeting: 10th October 2019

There are three vacancies – two expert and one lay member. Three members including the chair are up for renewal.

The agenda included a presentation on Tox tracker, continuing the update of the COM guidance documents and notes on the joint workshop on the interpretation of genotoxicity data, CBD oil and patulin.

Next meeting: tbc

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)

Last meeting: 5th November 2019

The agenda included updates from working groups and subgroups and maternal and child health and the joint SACN, NHSE, Diabetes UK draft report on low carbohydrate diets for type 2 diabetes, NDNS and military energy.

Next meeting:

COT Secretariat

December 2019