

Recent activity of Scientific Advisory Committees (Update June 2020)

Science Council members paired with specific Scientific Advisory Committees

Committee	Science Council Member
Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)	Prof Sarah O'Brien
Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)	vacant
Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)	Dr Paul Turner
The Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)	Prof Sandy Thomas
Committee on Toxicity (COT) Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC) Committee on Mutagenicity (COM)	Prof John O'Brien

The table below summarises the recent activity of the FSA's Scientific Advisory Committees

Committee	Recent activity	Further Information
Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)	<p>Last meeting: 5 December 2019</p> <p>ACSS Update (January 2020)</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 for the fourth time on 5th December 2019 to give updated on activities since the last Committee meeting (December 2019). Updates were given from each working group:</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Susan Michie</p> <p>Secretariat: acss@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acss.food.gov.uk/</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assurance Working Group had discussed relevant FSA processes and identified future themes for the working group around: tender activity, post project reviews and guidance for drafting research specification and evaluation tender application. • The EU Exit Working Group had provided valuable input into evidence specification for FSA planned commissions. The group will continue to provide advice on approaches currently takes by the AU to assess the economic impact of EU exit and to identify research gaps. • The Risk Communications Group had advised on the specification, commissioning and reporting of a review of the current state-of-play of available risk communication guidance that is potentially applicable to food. • Horizon Scanning Working Group had identified a risk of duplicating efforts as there is already an established FSA workstream on horizon scanning with annual workshop events being held with input from the Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC). The Committee has subsequently decided that instead of a separate working group it would prefer to feed into horizon scanning alongside the SAC. <p>Minutes from the 5th December meeting are published here: https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acss5dec2019minutes.pdf</p> <p>Next meeting: 16 June 2020</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 29 April 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM Guidance: The Committee reviewed some of the EFSA GM guidance and commented on how they would like to assess these products in the future. • ACNFP Annual report: The Committee briefly discussed the 2019 annual report and provided written comments after the meeting. 	<p>Chair: Professor Peter Gregory</p> <p>Secretariat: acnfp@food.gov.uk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxicology Webinar: The Committee received a virtual webinar on basic toxicology from the experts on the Committee. There was also a discussion on future ways of working after the TP. <p>Next meeting: 23 June 2020</p> <p>At their next meeting, which will be online, the Committee are considering Further GM guidance and will discuss a GM dossier. The Committee will also discuss the EFSA novel foods guidance and future ways of working on novel foods after the TP.</p>	<p>Website: https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 30 January 2020.</p> <p>Issues they considered include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ACMSF Terms of Reference (The Committee discussed their terms of reference). https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1321-terms-of-reference.pdf 2. Ad Hoc Group on non-proteolytic <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> and vacuum and modified atmosphere packaged foods (The group presented their report to the full Committee for discussion and approval). https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acmsf-vpmap-subgroup-report_1.pdf 3. Tickborne Encephalitis virus risks to public health (The Committee considered the FSA's risk assessment). https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1323-tbev.pdf 4. Food and You Survey: Wave 5 Findings (The Committee received a presentation from the FSA). 	<p>Chair: Professor Bill Keevil</p> <p>Secretariat: acmsf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/</p>

	<p>https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1324-food-and-you.pdf</p> <p>5. Areas Research Interest (The Committee agreed to comment on FSA's proposed areas of research interest). https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1325-areas-of-research-interest.pdf</p> <p>6. Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group (Committee were briefed on the activities of EFIG). https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1326-update-on-efig.pdf</p> <p>7. Proposed Horizon Scanning Workshop (The Committee were briefed on a horizon scanning workshop planned for Spring 2020). https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1327-horizon-scanning_0.pdf</p> <p>8. Update on estimates of norovirus burden. The Committee was updated on the findings of an FSA funded study on the estimation of norovirus burden attributed to the food chain. https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/news/fsa-research-suggests-new-higher-estimates-for-the-role-of-food-in-uk-illness</p> <p>9. Information papers circulated to members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACMSF's report on multidimensional representation of risks https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1334-acmsf-risk-representation-report.pdf• EFSA Scientific Opinion: Whole genome sequencing and metagenomics for outbreak investigation, source attribution and risk assessment of food-borne microorganisms https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1336-efsa-opinion-wgs.pdf• EUROBAROMETER report for the UK 2019	
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	<p>https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1335-eurobarometer-report-uk.pdf</p> <p>ACMSF subgroup activities January to June 2020</p> <p>10. The Committee's subgroup on incidents reviewed the FSA's risk assessments published on 12 June 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk assessment: coronavirus risk to UK consumers via shellfish and crops grown on land treated with sewage sludge <p>https://www.food.gov.uk/document/risk-assessment-coronavirus-risk-to-uk-consumers-via-shellfish-and-crops-grown-on-land-treated-with-sewage-sludge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Qualitative Risk Assessment: What is the risk of food or food contact materials and surfaces being a source or transmission route of SARS-CoV-2 for UK consumers? <p>https://www.food.gov.uk/research/research-projects/qualitative-risk-assessment-on-the-risk-of-food-or-food-contact-materials-as-a-transmission-route-for-sars-cov-2</p> <p>11. Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group in May/June 2020 reviewed the FSA's survey of EU Harmonised Surveillance of AMR in bacteria from Retail Meats (Year 5 – Beef and Pork, 2019).</p> <p>ACMSF Horizon Scanning Workshop</p> <p>12. The Committee had a virtual horizon scanning workshop on 15 June 2020. This was used to identify emerging microbiological food safety risks.</p> <p>Next meeting: 22 October 2020</p>	
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<p>Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 27 June 2019</p> <p>FSA officials updated the committee on the future plans for SACs including ACAF.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The ACAF Secretariat provided members with an update on future potential options for how the FSA could access their advice in the future.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Next meeting: No dates set for 2020 meetings – Committee under review</p>	<p>Chair: Dr Ian Brown</p> <p>Secretariat: acaf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acaf.food.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 5 May 2020</p> <p>The COT discussed topical CBD, alternatives to plastic packaging, the human microbiome, e-cigarettes, the COT Terms of Reference and Code of Practice, potatoes and acrylamide.</p> <p>Next meeting: 7 July 2020</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Alan Boobis</p> <p>Secretariat: cot@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://cot.food.gov.uk/</p>

<p>Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)</p>	<p>Last meeting – 12 March 2020</p> <p>The COC discussed the tumour micro-environment; followed up on horizon scanning; discussed the COC Annual report and the COC guidance statements, on points of Departure. The COC also discussed a presentation on the microbiome.</p> <p>Next meeting: 16 July 2020</p> <p>We will be doing a review of a number of guidance statements to determine whether updates are required</p>	<p>Chair: Professor David Harrison</p> <p>Secretariat: COC@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committee-on-carcinogenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment-coc</p>
<p>The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 9 June 2020</p> <p>The agenda included presentation on mutational spectra, finalising some COM guidance statements, finalising report and paper from the 2 day workshop on</p>	<p>Chair: Dr David Lovell</p> <p>Secretariat:</p>

	<p>interpretation of genotoxicity data and the EFSA draft guidance on aneugenicity assessment.</p> <p>Next meeting: 25 November 2020</p>	<p>COM@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment</p>
<p>Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 11 June 2020</p> <p>Agenda items include: Nutrition and older adults living in the community, Lower carbohydrate diets for adults with type 2 diabetes and Nutrition and Covid-19 related work.</p> <p>Next meeting: 20 November</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Ian Young</p> <p>Secretariat: SACN@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government</p>

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