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Rapid Evidence Review Question

Heather Hancock, FSA Chair of the Board

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How should the FSA evaluate the robustness of evidence submitted by non-commissioned third parties in order to ensure our advice is based on the highest quality, objective, scientific information?

Aim: For the Science Council to provide assurance to the FSA's independent articulation of what it considers 'quality', or robust, evidence.

Scope: The review does not include evidence that the FSA has directly commissioned, or assessment of dossiers for the pre-market approval or post-market review of regulated food and feed products.

Progress

- **Work Package 1: Desk Study**
 - ✓ • Interviews and literature review to explore current practice and international best practice
- **Work Package 2: FSA SAC Consultation**
 - ✓ • Initial engagement on the question: what is good evidence, and how do we judge that?
 - Consultation on early draft report
- **Work Package 3: Consultation with Other Governmental Departments**
 - ✓ • Initial engagement on the question: what is good evidence, and how do we judge that?
 - Consultation on early draft report
- **Work Package 4: Stakeholder Consultation**
 - Internal: December
 - External: January

Timeline



Work Package 1

Sept-Nov 2020

Summary of guidance

This is a summary of the processes and international guidance already in place, which the FSA uses, rather than a systematic or critical review of the literature.

Structure

- Relevance → Context and question
- Reliability → Impartiality & bias
→ Transparency
- Consistency → Method
→ Outcome
- Adequacy → Filtering
→ Weight of Evidence

Interviews

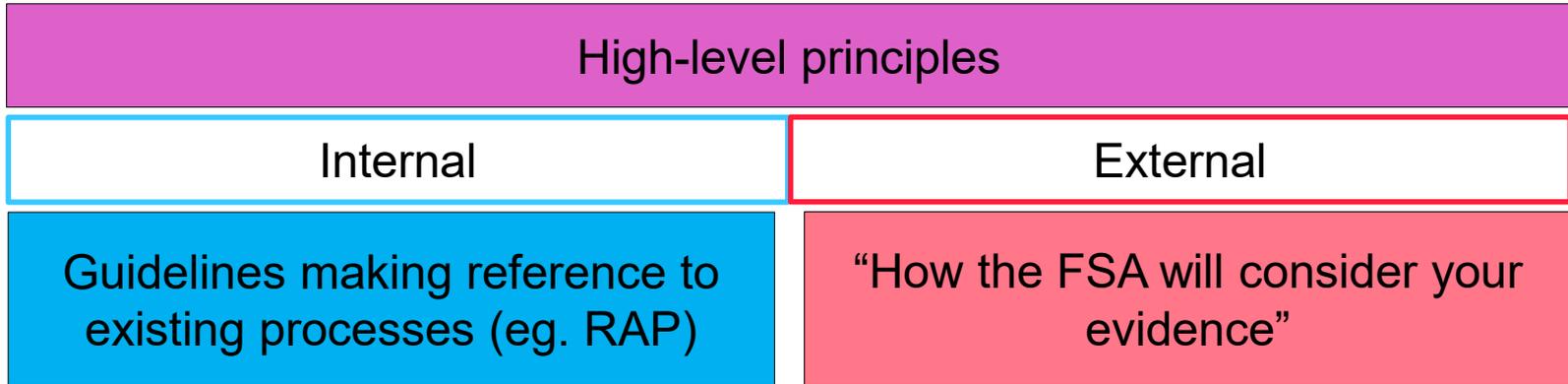
- Establishing shared expectations with third parties
 - Opportunity: increased engagement
 - Proportionality
- Characterisation of robust evidence
 - Context and question
 - Peer review and coaching
- Trustworthiness of evidence
 - Transparency
 - Impartiality & bias
- Assurance of FSA Risk Analysis Process
 - Communication between RA & RM
 - RAP is in its infancy
 - Consistency with EFSA

Key outputs

- **Guidelines**
 - High-level principles drawn out from the key themes detailed in the report
 - Internal and external guidelines that make reference to these overarching principles and existing process
- **Report**
 - A report will be made available for feedback in January 2021, including the outputs from work packages 1-3
 - This will include the guidelines for assessing quality evidence in the FSA.

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Foundations for guidelines



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DISCUSSION

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