



# Chair's meetings since December 2020

I have met with:

- **December 2020 and March 2021: Robin May (FSA CSA)** to explore developing future reviews, membership and updates on FSA Science.
- **January 2021 and May 2021: Emily Miles (FSA CE)** to discuss Council business and how future work of the Council mesh with FSA needs in the future.
- **February and April 2021: Julie Hill (ACSS DC)** to find common ground between Science Council and ACSS where we might benefit most from cooperation.
- **March 2021: Ruth Hussey (interim FSA Chair)** to introduce myself and the Science Council.
- **March 2021: Sam Faulkner (Head of FSA Strategy Unit)** to discuss horizon scanning and FSA strategy.
- **April 2021: Other FSA SAC Chairs** at our biannual meeting where we discussed: recent SAC activities, improving access to expertise, cross-SAC issues, how the FSA can better support Chairs.

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Robin May	Emily Miles	Julie Hill	Robin May	Julie Hill	Emily Miles
		Sam Faulkner	Ruth Hussey	SAC Chairs	



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# Annual Report to the FSA Board

## FSA Board meeting on 9 March 2021

### [FSA 21-03-04 - Science Council Chair's Annual Report to the FSA Board](#)

- I appeared at the [March FSA Board](#) meeting to update members on the activity of the Science Council over the last year which included:
  - Delivering the results of Working Group 4 on data usage and digital technology in August.
  - Reporting progress and presenting the interim report of Working Group 5 on food hypersensitivity in September.
  - Progress on the new Rapid Evidence Review 1: a Critical Review of Third-Party Evidence quality
- I also touched on some of the risks and opportunities future direction:
  - Diversifying the type of review the Council does to include shorter ones that deliver more immediate recommendations;
  - Future topics for the Council to review, including net zero carbon, other legitimate factors when deciding food policy and a broad review of the future landscape for the food system

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# Recent and ongoing work programme

## Working Group 5 on food hypersensitivity

- Final Report cleared by the Science Council on the 13 May (subject to revisions)
- Sent to the interim FSA Chair on 27 May.
- Paul Turner and I will present the recommendations at the next FSA Board meeting (16/6)
- I would like to thank this group and the secretariat for their hard work but special thanks to Paul and John O'Brien who dedicated a lot of time and energy to a fantastic review.

## Critical Review of the appraisal of third-party evidence

- Initial findings have been shared with the FSA Executive Management Team and are being shared with the FSA Board in Board paper updating members on risk assessment.
- Final report will be shared more widely within the FSA in the summer.
- This has been an unusual 'mini' review for the Science Council and I hope that we will be able to do more of these, providing short concise advice on timely issues, alongside our more in depth reviews.

# The Science Council Triennial Report

Published in February 2021

- The first multi-year compendium of the Science Council's work so far from Apr 2017 to Mar 2020
- Designed by an external design studio
- Delivered later than planned due to CV-19
- This idea was suggested back in early 2020 by the Secretariat and I am very pleased with how it has turned out.
- A true collaborative piece of work with Council members, FSA senior team (including Robin May, Heather Hancock, Emily Miles and Rick Mumford) contributing to the report.
- The new modern style and content will be carried forward into future Science Council annual reports to help broaden and engage our target audiences with our work.
- Since February, we've had a total of 35 downloads for the FSA Science Council Triennial Report

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# Looking forward

## Ways of working

- We will be looking to develop a mixed portfolio of work: our normal deep dives but also shorter reactive agile work.

## The Council will be expanding, adding two new members

- The previous round of SAC recruitment did not find suitable additional members. Moving forward Council members will be called on to promote vacancies with their networks and encourage applications from a wider pool of talent.

## The Science Council is looking at potential strategic science questions that it can address next year and beyond.

- In the next year we will be starting a review of the potential implications for food safety of changes to achieve net zero carbon economy.
- We will also be scoping a review to consider the food safety implications of disruptions to the food supply chain by climate change, CV-19 type pandemics and the post EU-Exit trade environment.