



Food
Standards
Agency
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FSA Science Council Review

Part 1: WG5.1 & 5.3

Review into the previous and current
FSA FHS research programme



Part 2

What research into FHS should the
FSA be conducting research into?



next 5 years
= WG5.2, 5.4



10-15 years
= WG5.5



**Final Report
Due June 2021**

Part 1:Key recommendations

i. Research Outputs

- Maximise the use of routinely-collected data across the FSA (e.g. post-incident analyses)

ii. Uptake and Impact

- Improving the internal and external visibility of outputs and impacts to help future business case planning
- Develop a clear process for data sharing

Part 1:Key recommendations

iii. Management and Governance

- Strategies to avoid critical reliance on “lynchpin” individuals, capture best practice and protect institutional knowledge
- Consider complementary methods to develop tender calls relating to complex areas
- Guidance for non-commercial sector re tendered research
- Steps to mitigate against unintended adverse impacts of GDPR on research activities

iv. Review and learning mechanisms

- Reinstate regular external reviews

Part 2: Key Recommendations

1. Internal co-ordination
2. Research priorities for the next 5 years
3. Longer term research priorities
4. Funding
5. Stakeholder engagement and review

Internal co-ordination

- i. FHS Programme Board
 - the process by which science and data are brought to the Programme Board should be made more resilient

- ii. Recognise the value of FSA activities that may not be considered or classified as “research”.
 - FSA to consider steps to enable more rapid analysis of incidents data, deliver improvements in incident prevention, and facilitate real-time analysis.

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Research Priorities for next 5 years

- i. Risks posed to people with FHS by new/novel foods and/or processes
- ii. Improving traceability of allergens in the food supply chain
- iii. Risks posed due to shared production of foods, and how these can be mitigated
- iv. Communicating risk, so that consumers with FHS can be confident that the food they are provided is safe
- v. How to improve the utility of allergen labels, including precautionary allergen (“may contain”) labelling
- vi. How to better facilitate notification of incidents involving FHS to the FSA (and improve surveillance of allergen incidents in general)
- vii. Impact of co-factors on reaction severity
- viii. Impact of socioeconomic factors (including race/ethnicity) on FHS
- ix. Impact of environmental exposures on risk of developing FHS
- x. Current knowledge of FHS amongst the general public

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Longer-term research priorities (HS)

Aim: to future-proof FSA's regulatory capacity/responsiveness

- i. Define requirements of a digital framework (+ associated data standards) to communicate allergen risk throughout the food supply chain including to end-consumers
- ii. Proactive engagement with social media and information platforms re misleading or incorrect FHS information
- iii. Consider approaches to online food fraud which may be more difficult to manage than conventional food outlets.
- iv. Continued engagement with relevant stakeholders to maintain an ability to address emerging drivers of change.

Funding and Stakeholder engagement/review

- i. ARIs offers opportunity for shared funding and research integration in FHS across government agencies
 - FSA well-positioned to take a lead
- ii. Reinstate regular stakeholder and quinquennial external reviews, to facilitate:
 - ongoing evolution and external monitoring of the FHS research environment.
 - more structured (and regular) horizon scanning
 - dissemination of research programme outputs and impact
 - develop strategic relationships with other funders and stakeholders

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