

**FSA Science Council 3rd meeting  
Engaging with the FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs)**

**Background**

1. At the second meeting of the Science Council in December 2017 the Chair invited discussion on how the Council can engage effectively with the other FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs).
2. This followed a discussion at a workshop with SAC Chairs on 30 November 2017 (the next of which is planned for 15 August 2018). The workshop generated some useful ideas on how to build engagement, such as: invited presentations at Council meetings from SAC Chairs on their Committee's activities; inviting SAC Chairs' input on early scoping of Working Group tasks (especially to help to identify relevant existing work and capability); Council Chair or Members attending SAC meetings; pairing each member of the Council with one SAC; including SACs in Council work as and when a joint interest arises (this is already happening through some SAC input to current Working Groups).
3. To gain a better understanding of the SACs' role and work, Members asked to have some briefing material to help familiarise themselves with the Committees and identify appropriate areas/routes for collaboration and engagement.

**Update on engagement plans**

4. Following discussion between the Science Council Chair and the FSA Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) in March 2018 the Secretariat invited comments from Science Council Members and from the SAC Chairs and their Secretariats on proposals for pairing Science Council Members with SACs and how this would work in practice:
  - a. To have a Science Council member as champion for each Committee to act as a conduit between the Council and that Committee.
  - b. Arrangement would be flexible and the likely time commitment would be at least one but no more than three days per year - this could include attending SAC meeting(s) and working with the Committee Chair.
  - c. There would be a standing item at Council open meetings to provide Members with the opportunity to feedback on their interaction with their linked Committee.
5. The response to the proposal was largely positive although there were concerns raised by some about the time commitment required to fulfil the liaison and engagement role effectively. The Science Council Chair and CSA reflected on this and have suggested the following provisional allocations, emphasising that this work would need to be light touch with minimal numbers of emails.

SC 3-6 Engaging with the FSA SACs (update paper)

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

**Next steps:**

6. The Secretariat will send SAC meeting dates to Members. An update will be provided at the next Science Council meeting on 12 December 2018.