

SC 5-9b (June 2019) Recent activity of the Scientific Advisory Committees

This document summarises the recent activity of the FSA's Scientific Advisory Committees. We highlight topics discussed at the most recent meeting and agenda items for the next meeting.

Committee	Recent activity	Further Information
Science Council	<p>Last Meeting: 6th March 2019</p> <p>The Science Council met in 'Working Group Configuration' on 6th March. Working Group 4 (data usage and digital technology) heard from the FSA Head of the Surveillance as the last of a series of exploratory interviews on data usage across the Department. Working Group 4 also heard from the FSA Data Fellow, Dr Anatol Wegner, and ACSS members Julie Hill and George Gaskell, in relation to data interest cross-over in the ACSS's Food and You Survey review and as wider good committee practice. The Working Group 4 Chair, Prof Patrick Wolfe, is working with the Secretariat to produce a short Phase 1 report, collating key reflections from discussions thus far. The Working Group 4 Chair, the CSA and Secretariat are in discussion with The Alan Turing Institute and the Internet of Food Things Network with respect to Phase 2 commissions. Working Group 3 (global food systems risks and horizon scanning) has handed over its final report to the FSA. This report will be discussed at the next FSA Board meeting on 19th June.</p> <p>Next meeting: Open plenary meeting 27th June 2019</p> <p>Agenda items will include an implementation update by the Executive following hand-over and response to Working Group 1 & 2 recommendations at the Board in December 2018 and discussions of what SC can do in the allergen space.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Sandy Thomas</p> <p>Secretariat: sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://science-council.food.gov.uk/</p>
Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)	<p>Last meeting: 2nd April 2019</p> <p>The Committee met for the third time on 2 April 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group updates – The Risk Communication and Behavioural Science Working Groups gave updates on activities since the last Committee meeting (Dec 18). Update papers can be found here: https://acss.food.gov.uk/acss-meetings/acss-meetings/acss-meeting-2nd-april. The Risk Communication group has reviewed the risk communications guidance which will sit alongside the FSA's new risk assessment framework. The Behavioural Science group have identified three priority areas for the FSA to design and pilot behavioural interventions: allergens, business registration, and Caloriewise. Both 	<p>Chair: Professor Susan Michie</p> <p>Secretariat: acss@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acss.food.gov.uk/</p>

	<p>groups will be formally wrapped up over the next few months, but will continue to advise on risk communication and behavioural science matters on an ad hoc basis going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Food and You – Chair of the Food and You Review Working Group, Professor George Gaskell, presented recommendations on the future direction of the FSA's Food and You survey. The full report and recommendations can be found here: https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fandyoursurvey.pdf. It was agreed that this working group will formally wrap up but will be replaced by a 'task force' to implement the recommendations from the review. • Future priorities – The Committee agreed to establish three new working groups looking at EU exit, emerging technologies, and assurance. The Committee will be presenting a paper at the September FSA Board meeting to provide assurance to the FSA Chair on social science in the FSA. <p>Minutes from the meeting have been published here: https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/minutesapril.pdf</p> <p>Next meeting: Nov 2019 – date tbc</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 7th May 2019</p> <p>The ACNFP discussed three traditional food summaries that will be uploaded to the ACNFP website to support the openness of the Committee's discussion of notifications under the traditional foods process. A new traditional food application was discussed. The ACNFP received an update on the future arrangements for risk assessment of regulated products (Reserved Business) and the 2018 Annual report was discussed.</p> <p>Next meeting: 10th July</p> <p>The agenda is subject to applications that are received ahead of the meeting but are likely to include discussion of notifications for traditional food from third countries.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Peter Gregory</p> <p>Secretariat: acnfp@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 18th October 2018</p> <p>The ACMSF reviewed their opinion on Shiga toxin producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC) in raw and ready-to-eat foods, discussed latest evidence on <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> in vacuum packed chilled foods, including recent work undertaken at Campden BRI and Quadram Institute. Discussed the FSA's revised Surveillance Strategy, outcomes from the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group meeting in July, and how to take forward outcomes from January 2018 horizon scanning workshop.</p>	<p>Chair (acting): Professor David McDowell</p> <p>Secretariat: acmsf@food.gov.uk</p>

	<p>Recent subgroup activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ad Hoc Group on quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs), biocides and chlorine-based disinfectants used on food processing.</u> Group is considering the issue of rule changes concerning plant protection products maximum residue levels and their potential impact on food safety. ACMSF is working with the FSA, Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food and Health and Safety Executive in analysing industry's responses to ACMSF's request for evidence on industry's concerns on the implications of these changes. • <u>Ad Hoc Group on Campylobacter.</u> The Group's report (Third report on <i>Campylobacter</i>) was published for public consultation on 7 March 2019. • <u>Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.</u> Group has resumed its activities following the publication of the fixed-term task and finish report (AMR in the food chain; research questions and potential approaches) that was presented to the FSA Board in September 2018. • <u>Ad Hoc Group on Risk Assessment.</u> Group was setup in May 2018 and has agreed its terms of reference and its approach. Group met in November 2018 and February 2019 and are presently working on their report. • <u>Working Group on New Emerging Pathogens.</u> Recently considered the FSA's literature review on risks of consuming human placenta. <p>Next meeting: 27th June 2019</p> <p>Items on the agenda include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA's guidance on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods with respect to <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> (the Committee will be updated on current evidence on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods) • Ad Hoc Group on Risk Assessment Report (the Chair of the group will give a presentation on <i>a proposed new 2-Dimensional risk assessment framework for the Committee to discuss</i>) • Ad Hoc Group on <i>Campylobacter</i> (the group's draft report underwent a 10-week public consultation. The Committee will be updated with a summary of responses received and the amended draft final report for consideration) 	<p>Website: https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the activities of Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group • An update on the activities of the Working Group on New Emerging Pathogens who recently considered the FSA's literature review on risks of consuming human placenta • An update on the activities of Antimicrobial Resistance Working group • An update on the activities of the Ad Hoc Group on quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs), Biocides and Chlorine-Based Disinfectants used in food processing • Food Standard Agency's review of alternative interventions in poultry processing (the Committee will discuss the FSA's literature review of alternative interventions in poultry processing) Reserved Business • Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland Risk Analysis guidelines (the Committee will be updated on work being undertaken on risk analysis by FSA and FSS in preparation for the UK's Exit from the EU) Reserved Business 	
Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)	<p>Last meeting: 27th February 2019</p> <p>FSA officials presented information about future structure of SACs and changes affecting ACAF. The subgroup on feed additives and over-supplementation gave an update from their last meeting in Oct 2018, and there was an update on issues around raw pet food.</p> <p>Next meeting: 27th June 2019</p> <p>Feed Additives Members will be provided with an oral update from Tim Riley, chair of the sub-group, on feed additives and over-supplementation, on the outcome of the fourth meeting of the sub-group held in June 2019. Members will be invited to provide comments on the recommendations.</p> <p>Raw Pet Food</p>	<p>Chair: Dr Ian Brown</p> <p>Secretariat: acaf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acaf.food.gov.uk/</p>

	Members will be provided with an update by Stephen Wyllie on work carried out since the February 2019 meeting on the issues surrounding raw pet food. Members will be invited to comment on and clear a draft guidance note.	
Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)	<p>Last meeting: 7th May 2019</p> <p>The COT discussed the potential for developmental toxicity from phosphate-based flame retardants, the potential toxicological risks from electronic e-cigarettes, both nicotine and non-nicotine types, and risks to health from additives not currently allowed in the EU (reserved business). An EFSA opinion on phthalates was also discussed, and the COT were given an update on the FSA SACs.</p> <p>Next meeting: 2nd July 2019</p> <p>Agenda items will include 3-nitro-oxypropanol (3-NOP), CBD products, a review of physiologically- based pharmacokinetics modelling, mycotoxins in the infant diet, synthesising epidemiological and toxicological evidence and electronic e-cigarettes.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Alan Boobis</p> <p>Secretariat: cot@food.ac.uk</p> <p>Website: https://cot.food.gov.uk/</p>
Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)	<p>Last meeting: 8th November 2018</p> <p>The COC heard a presentation on immunological and stromal cell modulations relevant to cancer risk by Professor Nigel Gooderham. The Committee discussed the development of a framework for assessing risk due to less-than-lifetime exposure to carcinogens, the effects of combined exposures to chemicals on carcinogenicity, the guidance statement and horizon scanning.</p> <p>Next meeting: 11th July 2019</p>	<p>Chair: Professor David Harrison</p> <p>Secretariat: COC@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committees-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: 28th February 2019</p> <p>COM are currently up dating their guidance on a strategy for testing of chemicals for genotoxicity. This includes new sections on the use of QSARs, 3D models, nanomaterials and germ cell mutagens. This is a long term piece of work.</p> <p>COM held a closed workshop in June 2019 on the interpretation of genetic toxicology data in a regulatory environment. The outputs from the workshop will feed into the update of the testing strategy.</p> <p>There are three vacancies – two expert and one lay member. These members including the chair are up for renewal.</p> <p>Next meeting: 10th October 2019</p> <p>Agenda items will include continuing the update of the COM guidance documents and horizon scanning for future issues COM should be aware of.</p>	<p>Chair: Dr David Lovell</p> <p>Secretariat: 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: 18 June 2019</p> <p>SACN discussed the draft report on saturated fats and health, and the joint SACN, NHSE, Diabetes UK draft report on low carbohydrate diets and type 2 diabetes. SACN heard a presentation on the NDNS years 1-9 report and discussed the findings. SACN heard updates from working groups and subgroups, and discussed updates from government departments.</p> <p>Next meeting: 5 November 2019</p> <p>Agenda items are likely to include updates from working groups and subgroups. SACN are also likely to discuss the joint SACN, NHSE, Diabetes UK draft report on low carbohydrate diets for type 2 diabetes and the draft position statement on older adults.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Ann Prentice</p> <p>Secretariat: SACN@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-committee-on-nutrition</p>