



Timeline to date:

May 2019: FSA Board requested Science Council to:

- Consider and advise on future research priorities and direction in respect to food hypersensitivity.
- Contribute to a review of the science and evidence base for addressing food hypersensitivity, and the part the FSA and others should play in enhancing knowledge.

June 2019: SC agrees to this request, with ToR agreed October 2019

Nov 2019: changes in terms of FSA plans to deliver internal review

Dec 2019: SC asked to review changes to WG5 plan and ToR

FSA Food Allergy & Intolerance Research Programme

- T07 Research Programme launched in 1994 under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food
- Formal reviews undertaken by FSA and External review panel in 2003, 2008 and 2012.
- Joint workshop with MRC held 2009
- No published reviews since 2012.

RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Food allergy and intolerance research --

The programme is currently funding research under a number of key themes of work, outlined below:

- Development of management thresholds for allergenic foods
- Route and timing of exposure to food allergens in early life
- Immunological aspects of food allergy
- Prevalence and characteristics of food allergy and intolerance
- Food allergen labelling and consumer choice research
- Evaluation of FSA allergy guidance

Major aims include facilitating the development of allergen management thresholds for use by industry and regulators and identifying risk factors associated with the development of food allergy so that appropriate information can be provided for consumers. In addition the programme also focuses on understanding consumer attitudes to food allergy and intolerance and its labelling.

Research projects related to the programme

- Prevalence in Infant Food Allergy (PIFA) Study and follow-up
- Patterns and Prevalence of Adult Food Allergy
- Immune mechanisms involved in the induction of oral tolerance to peanuts in children
- Quantitative risk assessment of food products cross-contaminated with allergens
- The effect of extrinsic factors on food allergy
- Young people and food allergies and intolerances
- Baseline for evaluation of EU FIC (Food Information to Consumers) labelling
- Baseline study to investigate the provision of allergy information for foods sold loose
- Systematic review on infant feeding and development of atopic and autoimmune disease
- Consumer understanding of labelling terms for foods marketed for gluten-free diet
- Literature review of the nutritional adequacy of a typical gluten-free diet
- Testing of government advice on peanut consumption during early life
- Understanding of labelling terms 'Lactose free', 'Milk free' or 'Dairy free'
- Skin barrier structure/function and sensitisation to food allergens: a prospective birth cohort study
- Survey of allergen labelling and allergen content of processed foods
- EAT Study: early introduction of allergenic foods to induce tolerance
- Understanding the food choice of nut allergic consumers
- Evaluation of provision of allergen information for non pre-packed foods guidance
- Preferences for consumers with food allergies or intolerances when eating out

	1 Historical context	2 Current status	3 Short-term (next 0-2 years)	4 Evidence underpinning research priorities	5 Longer-term 5-15yrs
	Existing A&I Research Programme	Research Prioritisation	FSA working practices	Evidence underpinning research priorities	Horizon scan
AIM	Evaluate FSA Allergy & Intolerance (A&I) research programme to date.	Identify current priorities for FSA research in FHS by consensus with all relevant stakeholders	Evaluate best practice... in terms of how science influences FSA policy and decision making within A&I	Evaluate the current evidence-base relating to priority areas identified in task 2	Horizon scan of the FHS environment to inform future FSA research and policy direction
Existing Terms of reference	WP1: Provide oversight and assurance of an internal FSA review into the evidence base for food hypersensitivity and how this informs FSA policy.		WP3: ...evaluate best practice... how science influences FSA policy/decision making.	WP1: review into the evidence base for FHS and how this informs FSA policy.	WP2: Horizon scan of the FHS environment to inform future FSA research and policy direction
METHODOLOGY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compile checklist from WG1 output. 2. Review & iterative input by SC. 3. Subcontractor to undertake assessment of research programme to date using checklist 4. Review by SC. 	Precise methodology (e.g. based on James Lind Alliance framework) to be confirmed, to involve all stakeholders and undertaken by FSA with SC support.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modify checklist from task 1 2. PJT conducts interviews with FSA A&I staff. 3. Case studies presented to SC. 4. Discussion and review by SC. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External sub-contractor to undertake evaluation of the existing evidence base in the priority areas identified in 2. 2. Review by SC. 	HS exercise delivered jointly by SERD, A&I team and ACSS, with input from Science Council and facilitation by SC member JO'B.

WG5.1

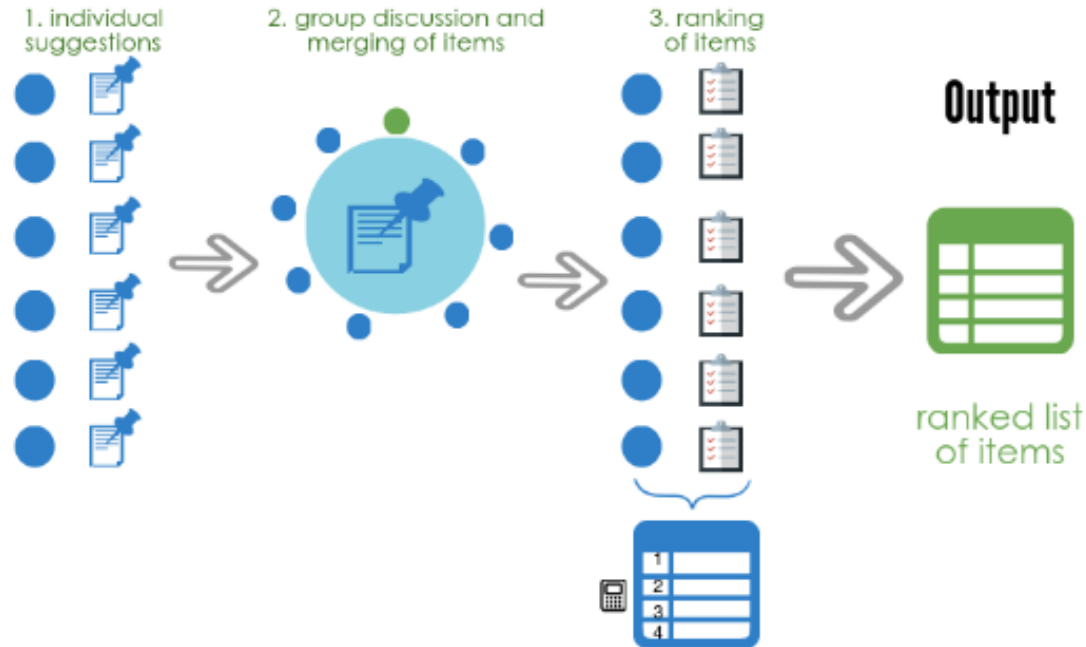
Evaluation of Research Programme since 2008

(to allow for an evaluation of the 2012 review and assess its longer-term impact)

1. Science reassurance checklist under development
2. Review to be undertaken by external sub-contractor
3. Responses by FSA
4. Final evaluation by Science Council
5. Interim report to FSA Board

WG5.2

Research Prioritisation Exercise: Nominal Group Technique



WG5.2

Research Prioritisation Exercise: Nominal Group Technique

1. Scoping of project by working group
2. Development of consumer/industry survey
3. Synthesis of questions into shortlist for discussion at workshop
4. Research Prioritisation Workshop: all stakeholders
5. Elaboration of research priorities into specific research questions
6. Evidence base to be assessed by external sub-contractor (literature review)
7. Final evaluation by Science Council
8. Interim Report to FSA Board

WG5.4

Research Prioritisation Exercise: Nominal Group Technique

1. Scoping of project by working group
2. Development of consumer/industry survey
3. Synthesis of questions into shortlist for discussion at workshop
4. Research Prioritisation Workshop: all stakeholders
5. Elaboration of research priorities into specific research questions
6. Evidence base to be assessed by external sub-contractor (literature review)
7. Final evaluation by Science Council
8. Interim Report to FSA Board

WG5.3

Review of FSA best practice in use of research and science

1. Based on Science reassurance checklist from WG5.1
2. Interviews with FSA staff
3. Case study presentations to Science Council
4. Discussion and evaluation by Science Council
5. Interim report to FSA Board

WG5.5

Horizon Scan in Allergy & Intolerance research

1. Inputs to include:
 - i. 2008 and 2012 reviews of previous research programme
 - ii. Executive summary of 2020 Science Council review
 - iii. Outputs from Priority Setting Exercise
2. HS delivered jointly by SERD, A&I team and ACSS
 - with input from Science Council and facilitation by SC member JO'B.
3. Interim report to SC

WG5 OUTPUTS

May 2020:

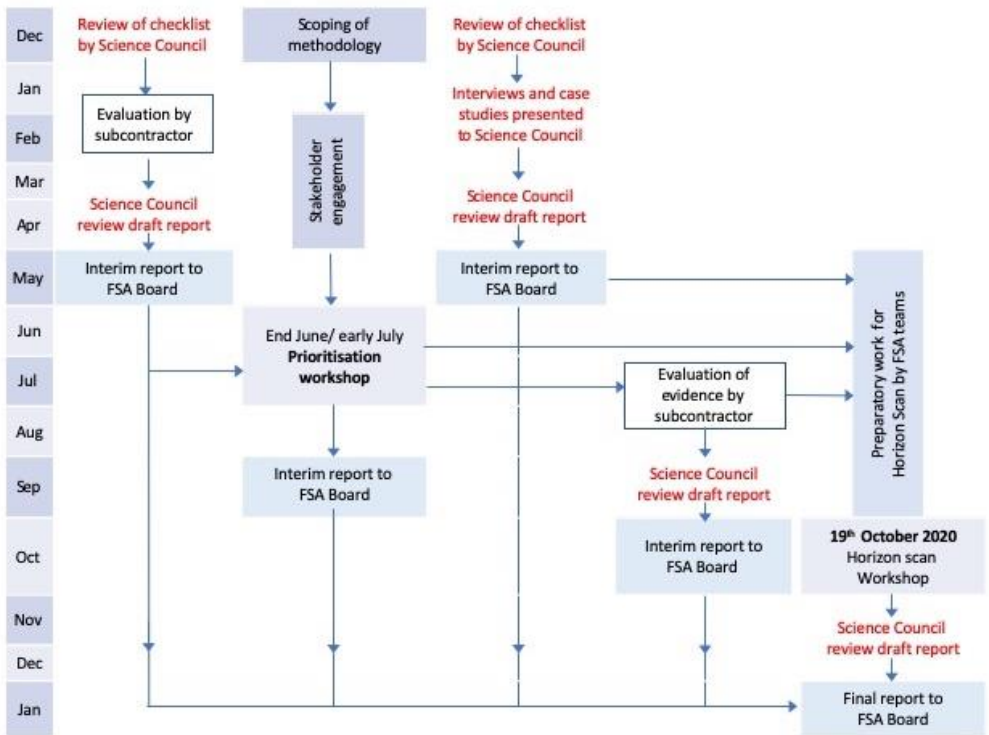
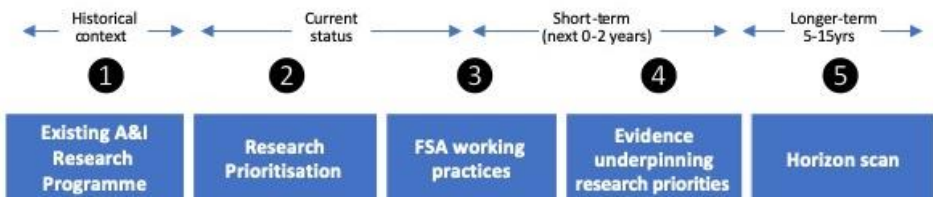
- Review of existing research programme (WG5.1)
- Best practice in use of science (WG5.3)

Sept/Oct 2020:

- Research Priorities and gaps in current evidence base (WG5.1, WG5.4)

Jan 2021:

- Final Report to FSA Board



For discussion

- Scope of Work
- Role of Science Council in delivery
- Timeline
- Approval of amended Terms of Reference