

SC 6-8 - Update December 2019: Recent activity of the Scientific Advisory Committees
(as of 2/12/19)

This document summarises the recent activity of the FSA's Scientific Advisory Committees.

Science Council members paired with specific Scientific Advisory Committees

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

Committee	Recent activity	Further Information
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 groups have been formally wrapped up but will continue to advise on risk communication and behavioural science matters on an ad hoc basis going forward. 	<p>Chair: Professor Susan Michie</p> <p>Secretariat: acss@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acss.food.gov.uk/</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/fandyousurvey.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 established three new working groups looking at EU exit, horizon scanning, and assurance. The Committee will be presenting an annual update paper at the December FSA Board meeting. <p>Minutes from the meeting are published here: https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/minutesapril.pdf</p> <p>The next open meeting of the ACSS will be on 5 December 2019.</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 27th November 2019 <i>(attended by Dr Paul Turner)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Food Dossiers: The Committee assessed a traditional food dossier for Coffee Leaves. The summary for consultation is being constructed and will be up for a consultation once PRUDAH is ceased. • Looking Forwards: The Committee complete a horizon scan covering four topic areas, the circularly economy, new protein sources, Genetic editing technologies and healthy eating trends. The information will be collated and will be assessed to see if any of the points need to be taken forwards. • Terms of Reference: The Committee reviewed the terms of references to provide comments and assist in its re-formatting. • Allergy Workshop: The Committee partook in an allergy workshop. This was led by experts who covered the scientific basis of developing allergy and what this meant for risk assessment in novel foods. <p>Next meeting: 12th of February 2020</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 and GM workshop.</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: 17th October 2019.</p> <p>The ACMSF met on Thursday 17 Oct 2019. Items discussed at this meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed-term group on multidimensional representation of risks (the committee considered a multi-dimensional risk assessment framework (produced by the above group) for use in risk assessments considered by ACMSF relating to microbiological hazards associated with food) https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm-1309-risk-representation.pdf • Risk assessment for the use of Mycobacterium bovis BCG Danish Strain 1331 in cattle: Risks to public (the Committee considered an addendum to the Animal and Plant Health Agency's risk assessment on the issue of ingestion of Cattle BCG via the food chain through the consumption of minced beef and raw milk from vaccinated cattle) • Botulism in Cattle, Sheep and Goats (the Committee commented on the FSA's systematic literature review concerning botulism in cattle, sheep and goats) • Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland Risk Analysis Guidelines (Reserved Business) - the Committee was updated on work being undertaken on risk analysis by FSA and FSS in preparation for the UK's Exit from the EU. <p>Committee updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad Hoc Group on non-proteolytic <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> and vacuum and modified atmosphere packaged foods (the Committee was updated on the work of the above group that is reviewing non-proteolytic <i>C.botulinum</i> risks in the context of the FSA's guidance on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods) • Ad Hoc Group on QACs and Biocides used in food processing (the Committee was updated on the activities of the group) • Ad Hoc Group on Campylobacter (the Committee was updated on the prioritisation of the recommendations of the Third Campylobacter Report carried out by the above group) <p>Next meeting: 30th January 2020.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Bill Keevil</p> <p>Secretariat: acmsf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 27th June 2019</p> <p>FSA officials updated the committee on the future plans for SACs including ACAF.</p>	<p>Chair: Dr Ian Brown</p>

	<p>The Chairman of the working group on feed additives and over supplementation updated members on the outcome of the fourth meeting of the sub-group held in June 2019. The Committee discussed how recommendations from the working group could be progressed.</p> <p>The ACAF Secretariat provided members with an update on future potential options for how the FSA could access their advice in the future.</p> <p>Steve Wyllie (APHA) presented a further revised draft guidance document covering the issue of raw pet food. Members were invited to comment and clear the guidance for publication.</p> <p>Next meeting: Provisional date of 12 February 2020 set for next meeting.</p>	<p>Secretariat: acaf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acaf.food.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 22nd October 2019</p> <p>The COT discussed the microplastics, the interactions between xenobiotics and human microbiota, the risks of mycotoxins in the diets of infants and young children; and continued their consideration of the toxicological risks of electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes).</p> <p>Next meeting: 3rd December 2019 (<i>attended by Prof John O'Brien</i>)</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Alan Boobis</p> <p>Secretariat: cot@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://cot.food.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 5 Nov 2019</p> <p>SACN discussed the draft joint SACN, NHSE, Diabetes UK draft report on low carbohydrate diets and type 2 diabetes and an update annex on military dietary energy. SACN commented upon future reporting of the NDNS and heard updates from working groups and subgroups, and updates from government departments. [minutes for this meeting are not currently on the SACN website].</p> <p>Next meeting: 10 March 2020</p> <p>Agenda items are likely to include updates from working groups and subgroups. SACN are also likely to discuss learning from alternative ways of working.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Ann Prentice</p> <p>Secretariat: SACN@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific- advisory-</p>

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