



The graphic features a central text 'Science Council Chair's Report' surrounded by a circular arrangement of icons connected by a dashed line. The icons represent various aspects of the food supply chain: a plant seedling, tomatoes, a tractor, a truck, a shop, a shopping cart, a pound symbol, a refrigerator, a cooking pot, and a fork and knife. The background is a blurred image of fresh produce.

Science Council Chair's
Report

Prof Sandy Thomas
SC7-3

Chair's meetings since December 2019

- January 2020: FSA Board meeting which discussed:
 - EU Exit
 - food hypersensitivity strategy
 - social science 3rd annual report; and
 - FSA risk analysis process update.
- March 2020: Meeting with Prof Patrick Vallance and other SAC Chairs.
- April 2020: Update meeting with Heather Hancock
- May 2020: Meeting with ACSS chair Prof Susan Michie

FSA Board meeting 11 March 2020

FSA 20-03-07;

CHAIR's ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE SCIENCE COUNCIL TO THE FSA BOARD

This was kindly presented by Prof John O'Brien.

The report set out:

- What the Science Council is;
- What its remit is;
- Its ways of working;
- A look back at its achievements over the last 3 years.
- An update on its recent and ongoing work programme (WG3, 4 & 5); and
- Risks, opportunities and future direction for the FSA and Science Council

Working Groups

- Working Group 4: Data analysis and tools
 - **“How can the FSA better understand the next phase of technology developments, recognising future challenges and opportunities, and having sufficient understanding of them to be able to ensure positive governance of the food system?”.**
 - The final report is ready for agreement to then present at the August FSA Board.
 - One key element is a call for better use of data standards across government
- Working Group 5: Food hypersensitivity
 - **“Consider and advise on future research priorities and direction in respect to food hypersensitivity.”**
 - **“Conduct a review of the science and evidence base for addressing food hypersensitivity, and the part the FSA and others should play in enhancing knowledge.”**
 - Some delay due to COVID-19, expecting delivery to FSA Board by June 2021.

COVID-19

- COVID-19 has affected all of us over the last few months
- The Science Council has had to consider new ways of working during this difficult time.
- There are likely to be significant changes in how the food system works as a result of this pandemic, even after social restrictions are eased.
- The Science Council will continue to offer its advice and support.

Reflecting on the last 3 years and the future

- In the time the Council has been in existence it has provided strategic advice to the FSA on:
 - science use and assurance.
 - assessing risk and uncertainty.
 - Food system risks and horizon scanning.
 - Targeted short-term questions such as advice on the CSA Strategic Evidence Fund and establishing outcome-based measures for FSA science.
- Valued relationship with SACs, Guy Poppy, Heather Hancock and the Board.
- Improving cooperation between SACs both within FSA and in OGDs.
- Changes to Science Council membership
- Starting to consider future areas of activity