

## Science Advisory Committees and Working Groups Update

### 1. Summary

1.1. This paper provides an update to on the FSA's Science Advisory Committees and detail on other committees, including any sub-groups (Annex I).

### 2. Updates

2.1. This section provides an update for each committee with meeting dates, main discussion points covered and, where applicable, a link to the minutes of the meeting.

#### 2.2. Science Council

Last Meeting: 24 June 2020 (Open session)

Next meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 (Open Plenary)

Items discussed at this meeting included:

- Updates on progress of Science Council's:
  - Working Groups 4 on data usage and digital technology (draft final report) and;
  - Working Group 5 on food hypersensitivity (review of progress and changes to schedule due to COVID-19)
- Discussion about development of an FSA Risk Communication Toolkit.
- Discussion of engagement between Science Council members and other Scientific Advisory Committees over the last six months.
- Updates on progress of Science Council Working Groups 4 and Working Group 5.

[Papers and minutes from latest Science Council meeting have been published here.](#)

#### 2.3. Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

No dates set for 2020 meetings (Committee under review)

[Past meetings and papers can be found on the ACAF website.](#)

#### 2.4. Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

No update

[Minutes from the 20th January 2020 meeting are published here.](#)

#### 2.5. Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Next meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> November

Latest update:

- COT CBD Position – The Committee discussed the COT's/FSA position on the data limitations and information surrounding CBD.
- CBD Applications (Reserved business)- The Committee were asked to compare and contrast two CBD dossiers as a training exercise.
- Request for Advice for CBD Applicants – The Committee considered a request for advice to CBD applicants regarding the specifications in the event of a joint application
- ACNFP Code of Practice: The Committee discussed final changes to the Code of Practice

[Papers and minutes from the latest ACNFP meeting are available on the website.](#)

#### 2.6. Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)

Last meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Next meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

The Committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> October for a discussion on future working groups topics as Risk Communications has made solid progress to completing its aims, leaving the Assurance Working Group as the main active group.

The two new topics agreed by the ACSS will be:

- Kitchen behaviours examining food hygiene practices in a domestic and catering settings. This project is out for tender and will have immediately start having input from the ACSS.
- Climate change to start in the middle of 2021. The ACSS will seek to build on findings from the climate change report from the Government due in the middle of 2021. This working group is still in the scoping phase and will seek to better understand the effect of climate change on the food system from a social science perspective.

[Minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> December plenary meeting are published here.](#)

## 2.7. Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)

Last meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Next meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Latest update:

- The COC reviewed guidance statement overview and specific guidance statements, discussed the draft position paper on “The tumour microenvironment” and followed up on horizon scanning.

[Papers and minutes from the latest COC meeting can be found here.](#)

## 2.8. The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)

No update.

[Papers and minutes from the latest COM meeting can be found here.](#)

## 2.9. Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)

No update.

[Papers and minutes from the latest COT meeting are available here.](#)

## 2.10. Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)

No update.

[Papers and meetings from the latest SACN meeting are available here.](#)

### 3. Annex I. Committees and Councils in the FSA

#### 3.1. Overview of Committees

Committee	Secretariat	Website	Objective	Members
Science Council	Chun-Han Chan (Secretary)  Paul Nunn (Secretariat Lead)	<a href="https://science-council.food.gov.uk/workgroup5">https://science-council.food.gov.uk/workgroup5</a>  <a href="mailto:sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk">sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk</a>	The Science Council provides high-level, expert strategic insight, challenge and advice to the FSA by ensuring that the FSA identifies, sources, integrates and uses the best scientific evidence and expertise from all relevant disciplines to inform and evaluate its work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Sandy Thomas (chair)</li> <li>• Prof. John O'Brien</li> <li>• Prof. Sarah O'Brien</li> <li>• Dr Paul Turner</li> <li>• Prof. Patrick Wolfe</li> </ul>
The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)	Erin Oliver (SSO) Richard Uchotski (HSO)  Elspeth Ransom (HSO)	<a href="https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/">https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/</a>  <a href="mailto:acnfp@food.gov.uk">acnfp@food.gov.uk</a>	To advise on any matters relating to novel foods (including genetically modified foods) and novel food processes, including food irradiation, having regard where appropriate to the views of relevant expert bodies'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Peter Gregory</li> <li>• Dr Anton Alldrick</li> <li>• Dr Camilla Alexander-White</li> <li>• Dr David Mela</li> <li>• Dr Hamid Ghodusi</li> <li>• Dr Lesley Stanley</li> <li>• Dr Mark Berry</li> <li>• Dr Maureen Wakefield</li> <li>• Dr Rohini Manuel</li> <li>• Mrs Rebecca McKenzie</li> <li>• Ms Clare Nicholson</li> <li>• Ms Nichola Lund</li> <li>• Prof. Chris Ritson</li> <li>• Prof. Clare Mills</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Harry McArdle</li> <li>• Prof. Huw Jones</li> <li>• Prof. John Mathers</li> <li>• Prof. Michael Bushell</li> <li>• Prof. Paul Fraser</li> <li>• Professor Susan Duthie</li> <li>• Professor Wendy Hardwood</li> </ul>
Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)	<p>Dr Paul Cook: ACMSF Scientific Secretary</p> <p>Dr Manisha Upadhyay: Scientific Secretariat</p> <p>Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat</p>	<p><a href="https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/">https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:acmsf@food.gov.uk">acmsf@food.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>To assess the risk to humans of microorganisms which are used, or occur, in or on food, and to advise the Food Standards Agency on any matters relating to the microbiological safety of food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Bill Keevil (chair)</li> <li>• Dr Gary Barker</li> <li>• Dr Roy Betts</li> <li>• Dr Gauri Godbole</li> <li>• Emma Hill</li> <li>• Prof. Miren Iturriza-Gómara</li> <li>• Heather Lawson</li> <li>• Dr Gwen Lowe</li> <li>• Dr Rohini Manuel</li> <li>• Prof. Peter McClure</li> <li>• Dr Dan Tucker</li> <li>• Ann Williams</li> <li>• Dr Wayne Anderson</li> <li>• Dr Edward Fox</li> <li>• Dr Jane Gibbens</li> <li>• Prof. Francis Butler</li> <li>• Martin Briggs</li> </ul>
Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)	Mandy Jumnoodoo	<p><a href="https://acaf.food.gov.uk/">https://acaf.food.gov.uk/</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:acaf@food.gov.uk">acaf@food.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>To advise on the safety and use of animal feeds and feeding practices, with a particular emphasis on protecting human health and with reference to new technical developments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geoffrey Brown</li> <li>• Prof. Robert Smith</li> <li>• Christine McAlinden</li> <li>• Ann Davison</li> <li>• Prof. Wendy Harwood</li> <li>• Angela Booth</li> </ul>

			and new feed materials and products.	
Committee on Toxicity (COT)	Freddie Lachman (admin)  Cath Mulholland (technical)	<a href="https://cot.food.gov.uk/">https://cot.food.gov.uk/</a>  <a href="mailto:cot@food.gov.uk">cot@food.gov.uk</a>	To provide a expert advice to Government departments on matters concerning the toxicity of chemicals in food, consumer products and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Alan Boobis (chair)</li> <li>• Dr Phil Botham</li> <li>• Jane Case</li> <li>• Dr James Coulson</li> <li>• Dr Rene Crevel</li> <li>• Prof. John Foster</li> <li>• Dr Caroline Harris</li> <li>• Dr Sarah Judge</li> <li>• Juliet Rix</li> <li>• Dr John Thompson</li> <li>• Prof. Mireille B. Toledano</li> <li>• Prof. Faith Williams</li> <li>• Prof. Matthew Wright</li> <li>• Dr Cheryl Scudamore</li> <li>• Prof Gunter Kuhnle</li> <li>• Prof. Maged Younes</li> <li>• Dr Garry Hutchison</li> <li>• Dr Stella Cochrane</li> <li>• Dr Mac Provan</li> <li>• Dr Natalie Thatcher</li> <li>• Dr David Lovell</li> <li>• Dr Michael Routledge</li> </ul>
Advisory Committee on Social Science	Becky Gillespie  Catherine Bartle  Peter Learmonth	<a href="https://acss.food.gov.uk/">https://acss.food.gov.uk/</a>  <a href="mailto:acss@food.gov.uk">acss@food.gov.uk</a>	To provide advice on new and emerging methods, processes and systems to interrogate data, to deliver the FSA's objectives in social science to shape and deliver its strategic objectives and understand its impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan Michie (chair)</li> <li>• Dan Rigby</li> <li>• George Gaskell</li> <li>• Hannah Lambie-Mumford</li> <li>• John McTernan</li> <li>• Julie Barnett</li> <li>• Julie Hill</li> <li>• Seda Erdem</li> <li>• Spencer Henson</li> </ul>

## 3.2. Working Groups

## Science Council Working Groups

Sub-Group	Website	Est.	Group Purpose	Members	Secretariat	Reports
Science Council Working Group on food hypersensitivity	<a href="https://science-council.food.gov.uk/working-group5">https://science-council.food.gov.uk/working-group5</a>	Nov 2019	<p>I. Consider and advise on future research priorities and direction in respect to food hypersensitivity</p> <p>II. 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Paul Turner (chair)</li> <li>• Prof. Sandy Thomas</li> <li>• Prof. John O'Brien</li> <li>• Prof. Sarah O'Brien</li> <li>• Prof. Patrick Wolfe</li> </ul>	Alisha Barfield	June 2021

## Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) Working Groups

No working groups currently meeting

## Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) Working Groups

Sub-Group	Website	Est.	Group Purpose	Members	Secretariat
Newly Emerging Pathogens Working Group	<a href="https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/new-pathogens-working-group">https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/new-pathogens-working-group</a>	2004	To gather intelligence on a continuous basis in order to facilitate the rapid identification of potential threats to UK consumers from exposure to newly-emerging or re-emerging pathogens through food chain exposure pathways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Dan Tucker (chair)</li> <li>• Dr Gary Barker</li> <li>• Dr Gauri Godbole</li> <li>• Prof. Miren Iturriza-Gomara</li> <li>• Mr Alec Kyriakides</li> <li>• Dr Gwen Lowe</li> </ul>	<p>Dr Manisha Upadhyay: Scientific Secretary</p> <p>Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat</p>

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Surveillance Working Group	<a href="https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/surveillance-working-group">https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/surveillance-working-group</a>	2000	To facilitate the provision of ACMSF advice to government in connection with its microbiological food surveillance programme and other surveillance relevant to foodborne disease, particularly in relation to the design, methodology, sampling and statistical aspects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Roy Betts (chair)</li> <li>• Prof. Peter McClure</li> <li>• Mr Alec Kyriakides</li> <li>• Ms Heather Lawson</li> </ul>	<p>Dr Manisha Upadhyay: Scientific Secretary</p> <p>Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat</p>
Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group	<a href="https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsf-amr-working-group">https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsf-amr-working-group</a>	2013	To assess the risks to humans from foodborne transmission of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms and provide advice to the FSA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacant (chair)</li> <li>• Dr Gauri Godbole</li> <li>• Dr Rohini Manuel</li> <li>• Dr Dan Tucker</li> <li>• Mrs Ann Williams</li> </ul> <p>Co-opted members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Stephen Forsythe</li> <li>• Prof. Roberto La Ragione</li> <li>• Mr Chris Teale</li> <li>• Prof. John Threlfall</li> </ul>	<p>Dr Manisha Upadhyay: Scientific Secretary</p> <p>Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat</p>

Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF) Working Groups  
 No working groups currently meeting



## Committee on Toxicity (COT) Working Groups

Sub-Group	Website	Est.	Group Purpose	Members	Secretariat
COT Synthesising epidemiological and Toxicological evidence subgroup	<a href="https://cot.food.gov.uk/workinggroups">https://cot.food.gov.uk/workinggroups</a>	Established 2019	To provide guidance, review practices, and identify best practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. A Boobis</li> <li>• Dr Lesley Rushton</li> <li>• Dr G Clare</li> <li>• Prof G Kuhnle</li> <li>• Dr D Lovell</li> <li>• Dr N Pearce</li> <li>• Prof. M Toledano</li> <li>• Prof H Wallace</li> <li>• Mr G Loizou</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr B Doerr</li> <li>• Ms C Mulholland</li> <li>• Ms B Gadeberg (PHE)</li> <li>• Ms V Guercio (PHE)</li> <li>• Dr A Gowers</li> </ul>

## Advisory Committee for Social Science

Sub-Group	Website	Est.	Group Purpose	Members	Secretariat
Assurance	<a href="https://acss.food.gov.uk/Assurance">https://acss.food.gov.uk/Assurance</a>	2019	To help assure the FSA Board on our delivery and use of social science in the FSA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hannah Lambie-Mumford (Ch)</li> <li>• Susan Michie</li> <li>• Julie Barnett</li> <li>• Julie Hill</li> </ul>	Becky Gillespie
Risk Communication	<a href="https://acss.food.gov.uk/RiskCommunication">https://acss.food.gov.uk/RiskCommunication</a>	2018	To support the development of the risk communications aspects of the FSA's new risk analysis framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie Barnett (Ch)</li> <li>• Julie Hill</li> <li>• George Gaskell</li> <li>• John McTernan</li> <li>• Seda Erdem</li> <li>• Spencer Henson</li> </ul>	Michelle Patel

Kitchen Life	TBC	2020	Awaiting full terms of reference. Initial work has been through a project steering committee advising on the evidence specification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>	TBC
Climate Change	TBC	2020	Awaiting full terms of reference. Initial scoping work is ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>	TBC