

## Paper 5.2

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### **SAC Update and working groups (June 2020)**

#### **SUMMARY**

This paper provides an update to on the FSA's Science Advisory Committees, an overview of each committee (Annex I) and detail on working groups (Annex II).

#### **UPDATES**

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.

#### **Science Council**

Last Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019 (Open session)

Next meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (Open Plenary)

Items discussed at the last meeting included:

- An update by the FSA Head of Science Strategy, Capability and Resilience (SSCR) on FSA work developing new Areas of Research Interest (ARI) and operationalising horizon scanning.
- Updates on progress of Science Council Working Groups 4 and 5.
- A discussion about the FSA Strategic Evidence Fund.
- Feedback on engagement between Science Council members and other Scientific Advisory Committees over the last quarter.

[Minutes of the 17th of December 2019 meeting have been published here.](#)

#### **Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)**

Last Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Next meeting: No dates set for 2020 meetings (Committee under review)

Items discussed at the last meeting included:

- FSA officials updated the committee on the future plans for SACs including ACAF.
- 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.
- The ACAF Secretariat provided members with an update on future potential options for how the FSA could access their advice in the future.

- Steve Wyllie (APHA) presented a further revised draft guidance document covering the issue of raw pet food.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.

[Minutes from the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 meeting are published here.](#)

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

Last Meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Next meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Horizon scanning workshop

Items discussed at the last meeting included:

- ACMSF Terms of Reference
- Ad Hoc Group on non-proteolytic Clostridium botulinum and vacuum and modified atmosphere packaged foods
- Tickborne Encephalitis virus risks to public health (The Committee commented on the draft risk assessment).
- Food and You Survey: Wave 5 Findings
- Areas Research Interest
- Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group
- Proposed Horizon Scanning Workshop

[Minutes from the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 meeting are published here.](#)

### **Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)**

Last meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Next meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Items discussed at the last meeting included:

- GM Guidance: The Committee reviewed some of the EFSA GM guidance and commented on how they would like to assess these products in the future.
- ACNFP Annual report: The Committee briefly discussed the 2019 annual report and provided written comments after the meeting.
- Toxicology Webinar: The Committee received a virtual webinar on basic toxicology from the experts on the Committee. There was also a discussion on future ways of working after the TP.

At their next meeting, which will be online, the Committee are considering Further GM guidance and will discuss a GM dossier. The Committee will also discuss the EFSA novel foods guidance and future ways of working on novel foods after the TP.

Minutes for the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020 meeting have not yet been published.

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

Last meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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

Items discussed at the last meeting included:

- Discussion on the tumour micro-environment
- Following up on horizon scanning
- Discussion on the COC Annual report, the COC guidance statements, and points of Departure
- Discussion on a presentation on the microbiome

Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 meeting have not yet been published.

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

Last meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Next meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Items discussed at the last meeting included:

- Membership items:
  - Three vacancies (two expert and one lay member)
  - Three members including the chair are up for renewal
- CBD
- A guidance statement on QSAR models
- Updates on the COM guidance statements
- Update on Pig-A and follow up to the interpreting genotoxicity statement

Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 meeting have not yet been published.

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

Last meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Items discussed at the last meeting included:

- WRAP study on potatoes and acrylamide
- Scoping paper: alternatives to conventional plastics for food & drinks packaging
- Potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes)
- CBD draft paper

- Toxicological interactions between xenobiotics and the human microbiota - First draft statement

Minutes for the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 meeting have not yet been published.

**Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)**

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

Next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Items discussed at the last meeting included:

- Position statement on nutrition in older adults, maternal nutrition and horizon scanning

[Minutes for the 10th March meeting are published here.](#)

## Annex I. Committees and Councils in the FSA

### Overview of Committees

#### 1) Science Council

- a) Secretariat
  - Chun-Han Chan (Secretary)
  - Paul Nunn (Secretariat Lead)
- b) Website: <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-members>
- c) Contact Email: [sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk](mailto:sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk)
- d) Objective: 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.
- e) Members
  - Prof. Sandy Thomas (chair)
  - Prof. John O'Brien
  - Prof. Sarah O'Brien
  - Dr Paul Turner
  - Prof. Patrick Wolfe

#### 2) The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes

- a) Secretariat
  - Erin Oliver
  - Richard Uchotski
  - Elspeth Ransom
- b) Website: <https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/>
- c) Contact Email: [acnfp@food.gov.uk](mailto:acnfp@food.gov.uk)

d) Objective: 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'.

e) Members

- Prof. Peter Gregory
- Dr Anton Alldrick
- Dr Camilla Alexander-White
- Dr David Mela
- Dr Hamid Ghodduzi
- Dr Lesley Stanley
- Dr Mark Berry
- Dr Maureen Wakefield
- Dr Rohini Manuel
- Mrs Rebecca McKenzie
- Ms Clare Nicholson
- Ms Nichola Lund
- Prof. Chris Ritson
- Prof. Clare Mills
- Prof. Harry McArdle
- Prof. Huw Jones
- Prof. John Mathers
- Prof. Michael Bushell
- Prof. Paul Fraser
- Professor Susan Duthie
- Professor Wendy Hardwood

### **3) Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)**

a) Secretariat

- Dr Paul Cook: ACMSF Scientific Secretary

- Dr Manisha Upadhyay: Scientific Secretariat
  - Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat
- b) Website: <https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/>
- c) Contact Email: [acmsf@food.gov.uk](mailto:acmsf@food.gov.uk)
- d) Objective: 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.
- e) Members
- Prof. Bill Keevil (chair)
  - Dr Gary Barker
  - Dr Roy Betts
  - Dr Gauri Godbole
  - Emma Hill
  - Prof. Miren Iturriza-Gómara
  - Heather Lawson
  - Dr Gwen Lowe
  - Dr Rohini Manuel
  - Prof. Peter McClure
  - Dr Dan Tucker
  - Ann Williams
  - Dr Wayne Anderson
  - Dr Edward Fox
  - Dr Jane Gibbens
  - Prof. Francis Butler
  - Martin Briggs

#### **4) Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)**

- a) Secretariat
- Mandy Jumnoodoo

- b) Website: <https://acaf.food.gov.uk/>
- c) Contact Email: [acaf@food.gov.uk](mailto:acaf@food.gov.uk)
- d) Objective: 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 and new feed materials and products.
- e) Members
  - Geoffrey Brown
  - Prof. Robert Smith
  - Christine McAlinden
  - Ann Davison
  - Prof. Wendy Harwood
  - Angela Booth

## 5) Committee on Toxicity (COT)

- a) Secretariat
  - Freddie Lachhman (admin)
  - Cath Mulholland (technical)
- b) Website: <https://cot.food.gov.uk/>
- c) Contact Email: [cot@food.gov.uk](mailto:cot@food.gov.uk)
- d) Objective: To provide an expert advice to Government departments on matters concerning the toxicity of chemicals in food, consumer products and the environment.
- e) Members
  - Prof. Alan Boobis (chair)
  - Dr Phil Botham
  - Jane Case
  - Dr James Coulson
  - Dr Rene Crevel
  - Prof. John Foster
  - Dr Caroline Harris



- Dr Sarah Judge
- Juliet Rix
- Dr John Thompson
- Prof. Mireille B. Toledano
- Prof. Faith Williams
- Prof. Matthew Wright
- Dr Cheryl Scudamore
- Prof Gunter Kuhnle
- Prof. Maged Younes
- Dr Garry Hutchison
- Dr Stella Cochrane
- Dr Mac Provan
- Dr Natalie Thatcher
- Dr David Lovell
- Dr Michael Routledge

**6) Advisory Committee on Social Science**

- a) Secretariat
  - Rebecca Gillespie
- b) Website: <https://acss.food.gov.uk/acss-members>
- c) Contact Email: [acss@food.gov.uk](mailto:acss@food.gov.uk)
- d) Objective: To provide expert strategic advice to the FSA on its use of the social sciences including new and emerging methods, processes and systems to interrogate data, to deliver the FSA's objectives
- e) Members
  - Susan Michie (Chair)
  - Julie Barnett
  - Julie Hill
  - George Gaskell

- John McTernan
- Seda Erdem
- Dan Rigby
- Hannah Lambie-Mumford

## **Overview of Working Groups**

### **Science Council Working Groups**

#### **Active Groups**

- i. Sub-Group: Food system risks and horizon scanning
- ii. Website: <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-subgroups/science-council-working-group-on-food-system-risks-and-horizon-scanning>
- iii. Established: Jun-17
- iv. Group Purpose: To improve its horizon scanning and its understanding of global food systems risks (and opportunities)?
- v. Members:
  - Prof. John O'Brien (chair)
  - Prof. Sandy Thomas
  - Prof. Laura Green

- Prof. Mark Woolhouse
- Mr Mark Rolfe
- Prof. Patrick Wolfe

vi. Secretariat:

- David Lau

vii. Sub-Group: Data usage and digital technology

viii. Website: <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-subgroups/science-council-working-group-on-data-usage-and-digital-technology>

ix. Established: Sep-18

x. Group Purpose:

- Over the next 2-5 years, what are likely to be the emerging data tools, techniques and technologies which could have the greatest impact on the FSA's mission, including for its Regulating Our Future programme, and what value could these add?
- Where and how could the FSA benefit from modifying its data collection processes? What are the expected benefits of any changes?
- What are key implications for the FSA of advancements in open data, data sharing and how should the Agency go about leveraging them (including private / industry data)?
- How can the FSA ensure that it adopts the right controls and governance around data? This will be informed by a review of data governance and legal & regulatory frameworks for the use of data in decision making (including pre-disclosure and pre-disposition in relation to machine learning and artificial intelligence), and, associated with this, the ethical use of data.

xi. Members:

- Prof. Patrick Wolfe (chair)
- Science Council

xii. Secretariat:

- Ben Goodall

xiii. Sub-Group:

xiv. Website:

xv. Established:

xvi. Group Purpose:

xvii. Members:

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xviii. Secretariat:

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xix. Sub-Group: Food hypersensitivity

xx. Website: <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-subgroups/science-council-working-group-on-food-hypersensitivity>

xxi. Established: Nov-19

xxii. Group Purpose:

- 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.

xxiii. Members:

- Dr Paul Turner (chair)
- Science Council

xxiv. Secretariat:

- Alisha Barfield

### **Inactive Working Groups**

i. Sub-Group: Science capability and assurance

ii. Group Purpose: To advise the Board on how it can be confident that FSA has access to the right science capability and is using science to the best of its ability

- iii. Sub-Group: Risk and uncertainty
- iv. Group Purpose: To advise on best practice in establishing and communicating risk and uncertainty

## **ACMSF Working Groups**

### **Active Groups**

- i. Sub-Group: Newly Emerging Pathogens Working Group
- ii. Website: <https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfsubgroups/pathogensgroup>
- iii. Established: 2004
- iv. Group Purpose: 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.
- v. Members:
  - Dr Dan Tucker (chair)
  - Dr Gary Barker
  - Dr Gauri Godbole
  - Prof. Miren Iturriza-Gomara
  - Mr Alec Kyriakides
  - Dr Gwen Lowe
- vi. Secretariat:
  - Dr Manisha Upadhyay: Scientific Secretary
  - Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat
  
- vii. Sub-Group: Surveillance Working Group

viii. Website: <https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfsubgroups/surveillancegroup>

ix. Established: 2000

x. Group Purpose: 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.

xi. Members:

- Dr Roy Betts (chair)
- Prof. Peter McClure
- Mr Alec Kyriakides
- Ms Heather Lawson

xii. Secretariat:

- Dr Manisha Upadhyay: Scientific Secretary
- Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat

xiii. Sub-Group: Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group

xiv. Website: <https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfsubgroups/amrwg>

xv. Established: 2013

xvi. Group Purpose: To assess the risks to humans from foodborne transmission of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms and provide advice to the FSA.

xvii. Members:

- Vacant (chair)
- Dr Gauri Godbole
- Dr Rohini Manuel
- Dr Dan Tucker
- Mrs Ann Williams
- Co-opted members
- Prof. Stephen Forsythe
- Prof. Roberto La Ragione
- Mr Chris Teale

- xviii.
  - Prof. John Threlfall
  - Secretariat:
  - Dr Manisha Upadhyay: Scientific Secretary
  - Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat

xix. Sub-Group: Ad Hoc Group on non-proteolytic Clostridium botulinum and vacuum and modified atmosphere packed foods

xx. Website: <https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfsubgroups/ad-hoc-group-on-non-proteolytic-clostridium-botulinum-and-vacuum-and-modified-atmosphere-packed-foods>

xxi. Established: 2019

xxii. Group Purpose: To review the Food Standards Agency guidelines for the shelf-life of vacuum and modified atmosphere packaged foods and the risk posed by non-proteolytic C. botulinum, and other pathogens where appropriate, from these foods.

xxiii. Members:

- Vacant (chair)
- Mr Alec Kyriakides
- Mrs Heather Lawson
- Dr Gary Barker
- Dr Roy Betts
- Dr Gauri Godbole
- Dr Wayne Anderson
- Co-opted members
- Prof. Mike Peck

xxiv. Secretariat:

- Dr Andrew Day: Scientific Secretariat
- Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat

- xxv. Sub-Group: Fixed-term group on multidimensional representation of risks
- xxvi. Website: <https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfsubgroups/fixed-term-group-on-multidimensional-representation-of-risks>
- xxvii. Established: 2018
- xxviii. Group Purpose: To propose a multidimensional representation of risk and total uncertainty that is suitable for food risks considered by ACMSF
- xxix. Members:
  - Dr Gary Barker (Chair)
  - Dr Dan Tucker
  - Prof. David McDowell
  - Dr Gauri Godbole
  - Dr Gwen Lowe
  - Prof. Miren Iturriza-Gomara
  - Prof. Peter McClure
  - Co-opted members
  - Dr Emma Snary
  - Dr John Bassett
- xxx. Secretariat:
  - Dr Andrew Day: Scientific Secretariat
  - Adekunle Adeoye: Admin Secretariat

### **Inactive Working Groups**

- i. Sub-Group: Ad Hoc Group on Foodborne Viral Infections
- ii. Group Purpose: To examine the extent of food borne viral infections and identify options for helping limit the cases
- iii. Sub-Group: Ad Hoc Group on Vulnerable Groups



- iv. Group Purpose: To review toxoplasmosis in humans and animals and continue surveillance on developments that may impact current guidance
- v. Sub-Group: \*Ad Hoc Group on Raw, Rare and Low Temperature Cooked Foods
- vi. Group Purpose: To assess the microbiological risks to consumers associated with:
  - use of low temperature cooking/slow cooking
  - foods of animal origin served raw
  - foods of animal origin served rare
- vii. Sub-Group: \*Ad Hoc Group on Eggs
- viii. Group Purpose: To assess the current level of microbiological risk to consumers (including vulnerable groups) from raw or lightly cooked shell eggs and their products and changing salmonella risk
- ix. Sub-Group: \*Ad Hoc Group on Campylobacter
- x. Group Purpose: To advise the FSA in evolving its strategy for reducing the incidence and risk of foodborne Campylobacter infection in humans.

## **COT Working Groups**

### **Active Groups**

- i. Sub-Group: COT Synthesising epidemiological and Toxicological evidence subgroup
- ii. Website: Coming soon
- iii. Established: Established 2019
- iv. Group Purpose: To provide guidance, review practices, and identify best practice
- v. Members:
  - Prof. A Boobis

- Dr Lesley Rushton
  - Dr G Clare
  - Prof G Kuhnle
  - Dr D Lovell
  - Dr N Pearce
  - Prof. M Toledano
  - Prof H Wallace
  - Mr G Loizou
- vi. Secretariat:
- Dr B Doerr
  - Ms C Mulholland
  - Ms B Gadeberg (PHE)
  - Ms V Guercio (PHE)
  - Dr A Gowers

### **Inactive Working Groups**

- i. Sub-Group: Joint SACN/COT Potassium-based Sodium Replacers Working Group
- ii. Group Purpose: To undertake a risk-benefit analysis of the use of potassium-based sodium replacers in foods, with particular consideration of the effects in vulnerable groups
- iii. Sub-Group: COT-COC Synthesising epidemiological evidence subgroup
- iv. Group Purpose: To provide guidance, review practices, identify best practice and recommend further work enquiries
- v. Sub-Group: COT Lowermoor Sub-group
- vi. Group Purpose: To advise on whether the exposure to chemicals resulting from the 1988 Lowermoor water pollution incident has caused, or is expected to cause human harm
- vii. Sub-Group: Peanut Allergy Working Group

viii. Group Purpose: To advise on consumption of whether consumption of peanuts during pregnancy was associated with peanut allergy in later life.

ix. Sub-Group: Working Group on Organophosphates

x. Group Purpose: To consider whether prolonged low level exposure, or subacute exposure to OPs can cause chronic ill-health effects.

xi. Sub-Group: Working Group on Organophosphates and Health Outcomes Relating to the Nervous System

xii. Group Purpose: To assess whether there are long-term adverse neurological or neuropsychological effects from low-level exposure to organophosphates

xiii. Sub-Group: Working Group on Phytoestrogens

xiv. Group Purpose: To advise on the health implications of dietary phytoestrogens through review of published scientific research and the Food Standards Agency's Phytoestrogen Research Programme

xv. Sub-Group: Working Group on Variability and Uncertainty in Toxicology

xvi. Group Purpose: To review the sources of variability and uncertainty in risk assessment, and evidence of the biological reasons for the range of variability in response to toxic chemicals.

xvii. Sub-Group: Working Group on Risk Assessment of Mixtures of Pesticides

xviii. Group Purpose: To assess the potential pesticides and veterinary medicines in food to produce effects on human health and to consider the potential impact on human health of repeated exposure to such toxins

xix. Sub-Group: Food Intolerance Working Group

xx. Group Purpose: To critically assess and review the data on food intolerance and also the evidence that food can cause hyperactivity in children and associated behaviour in adulthood.

## ACSS Working Groups

### Active Groups

- i. Sub-Group: Risk Communication
- ii. Website: [https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/termsoref\\_3.pdf](https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/termsoref_3.pdf)
- iii. Established: 2018
- iv. Group Purpose: To support the development of the risk communications aspects of the FSA's new risk analysis framework.
- v. Members:
  - Julie Barnett (Ch)
  - Julie Hill
  - George Gaskell
  - John McTernan
  - Seda Erdem
  - Spencer Henson
- vi. Secretariat:
  - Michelle Patel
  
- vii. Sub-Group: Assurance
- viii. Website: Coming soon
- ix. Established: 2019
- x. Group Purpose: To help assure the FSA Board on our delivery and use of social science in the FSA.
- xi. Members:
  - Hannah Lambie-Mumford (Chair)
  - Susan Michie
  - Julie Barnett
  - Julie Hill
- xii. Secretariat:
  - Becky Gillespie

## **Inactive Working Groups**

- i. Sub-Group: Food and You
- ii. Group Purpose: To conduct a wholesale review of the FSA's Food and You survey and provide recommendations for the future direction of the survey.
  
- iii. Sub-Group: EU Exit
- iv. Group Purpose: To advise on matters relating to Britain's preparations to leave the EU, e.g. regulatory differences
  
- v. Sub-Group: Applying Behavioural Science
- vi. Group Purpose: To examine how behavioural science can be used to help the FSA deliver on its objectives.

## **ACNFP Working Groups**

### **Active Groups**

No sub-groups currently exist.

## **ACAF Working Groups**

### **Active Groups**

Previous working group on feed additives and over-supplementation, but this is mainly completed, and the results/report are being discussed outside the committee structure