

Paper 4.2

Update on the Activities of the FSA's Scientific Advisory Committees

SUMMARY

This paper provides an update on activities of the FSA's Science Council and other Scientific Advisory Committees. An overview of the Committees, including a summary of roles and responsibilities and any subgroups, is provided in Annex A.

UPDATES

Science Council

Last meeting: *27th June 2019 – 5th meeting*

Agenda items:

- Science Council Chair's Report
- Chief Scientific Adviser's Report
 - update on CSA activities and plans
 - update on the food system research landscape
- Update from FSA Deputy Director of Science
 - FSA actions in response to recommendation from WG 1 on science capability and assurance and WG 2 on risk and uncertainty
 - Operational changes over the last 6 months that have contributed to science capability
- Report from Working Group 3 on Horizon Scanning
 - report following FSA Board discussion on 19th June
- Report from Working Group 4 on Data
 - Internet of Food Things Network
 - Data Trust Proof-of-Value study
- Food Hypersensitivity update
- Update on FSA Scientific Advisory Committees

Minutes: <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sciencecouncil5thmeetingminutesfinal.pdf>

Next meeting: *17th December 2019*

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

Last meeting: *27th June 2019 – 78th meeting*

Agenda items:

- Update for SACs on work being undertaken on risk analysis – Reserved Business

- Future plans for the SACs
- Feed Additives
- Information Paper
 - EU developments
 - Update on FSA Scientific Advisory Committees
- Consultative Committee on Animal Feeds
- Raw Pet Food

Minutes:

https://acaf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acaf_draft_minutes_27_june_2019.pdf

Next meeting: 2020 – *date to be confirmed*

Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

Last meeting: 17th October 2019 – 95th meeting

Agenda items:

- Ad Hoc Group on Risk Assessment Report
- Risk assessment for the use of Mycobacterium bovis BCG Danish Strain 1331 in cattle: Risks to public
- Botulism in Cattle, Sheep and Goat

Minutes: To be published on the ACMSF website once approved.

<https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfmeets/acmsfmeets/acmsf-meeting-17-october-2019/acmsf-meeting-17-october-2019/acmsf-agenda-17-october-2019>

Next meeting: 30th January 2020

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last meeting: 11th September 2019

Agenda items:

- Traditional Food Dossiers: No traditional Food Dossiers discussed
- Risk Analysis Guidelines: The ACNFP convened for a teleconference meeting on the 11th of September. In the meeting, the discussion focused development of the risk analysis guidelines. The Committee provided insight on the tier 2 and tiers 3 of the guidelines. The comments were captured by the FSA and provided to Jo Edge.

Minutes: To be published on the ACNFP website once approved.

<https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/meetings>

Next meeting: 27th November (*could not be included on time*)

Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

Last meeting: *16th July 2019*

Agenda items:

- Update on OECD Integrated Approach to Testing and Assessment (IATA) on Non-genotoxic carcinogens
- First draft revised Guidance Statement (G01): A Strategy for Risk Assessment of Chemical Carcinogens
- Scoping paper on the synthesis and integration of epidemiological and toxicological evidence in risk assessments
- Development of a framework for consideration of risk due to less than lifetime exposure
- Horizon Scanning

Minutes: To be published on the COC website once approved.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committee-on-carcinogenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment-coc#meetings>

Next meeting: *7th November 2019*

Committee on Mutagenicity (COM)

Last meeting: *10th October 2019*

Agenda items:

- Risks to Human Health from the use of Azodicarbonamide as a Food Additive
- Update on the validation of ToxTracker
- Meeting Notes and Draft Summary of Outcomes from the “Workshop on the Interpretation of Genetic Toxicology Data in a Regulatory Environment”
- Review of Genotoxicity of Cannabidiol (CBD)
- Review of Genotoxicity of Patulin (PAT)
- COM Guidance Series Update
- OECD Updates

Minutes: To be published on the COM website once approved:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment/about>

Next meeting: *To be confirmed*

Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)

Last meeting: *22nd October 2019*

Agenda items:

- Review of potential risks from contaminants in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years: Mycotoxins – Aflatoxin
- Toxicological interactions between xenobiotics and the human microbiota
- Potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems
- Introduction to the discussion paper for the development of methods for potency estimation
- Review of the potential risks from α -, β - and γ -hexachlorocyclohexanes in the diet of children aged 1-5 years
- Scoping paper on the potential risks from exposure to microplastics
- Risk assessment of residues of a group of veterinary products
- Review of potential risks from cyclopiazonic acid in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- Discussion paper on soya drink consumption in children

Minutes: To be published on the ACNFP website once approved.

<https://cot.food.gov.uk/cot-meetings/cotmeets/cotmeets>

Next meeting: *3rd December 2019*

Overview of the FSA's Scientific Advisory Committees

	Description	Roles & responsibilities	Subgroups	Chair	Website
Science Council	An independent expert committee of the FSA, which provides high-level, expert strategic insight, challenge and advice to the FSA's Chief Scientific Adviser and to the Board and executive of the FSA on the FSA's use of science to deliver FSA objectives.	To help ensure that the FSA identifies, sources, integrates and uses the best scientific evidence and expertise from all relevant disciplines to inform and evaluate its work.	Working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science capacity & assurance • Risk & uncertainty • Food system risks & horizon scanning • Data usage & digital technology <p><i>Further info:</i> https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-subgroups</p>	Professor Sandy Thomas	https://science-council.food.gov.uk/
Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)	A non-statutory, independent organisation, which advises the FSA on matters pertaining to novel foods, genetically modified foods, traditional foods and novel food processes.	To carry out the safety assessment of the traditional food notification, by going through the information provided to determine whether to raise any objections.		Peter Gregory	https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/
Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)	A non-statutory committee which provides expert advice to Government on questions relating to microbiological issues and food.	To assess the risk to humans of microorganisms which are used, or occur, in or on food, and to advise the FSA on any matters relating to the microbiological safety of food.	Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance • Antimicrobial Resistance • Newly emerging pathogens Ad Hoc Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foodborne Viral Infections • Vulnerable Groups • Raw, rare, and low temperature cooked foods • Eggs • Campylobacter 	Professor Bill Keevil	https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)	An advisory committee that advises on the safety and use of animal feeds and feeding practices, with particular emphasis on protecting human health, and with reference to new technical developments.	To advise on the safety and use of animal feed in relation to human health.		Dr Ian Brown	https://acaf.food.gov.uk/
Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)	An independent scientific committee that provides advice to the FSA, and other Government Departments and Agencies on matters concerning the toxicity of chemicals.	To advise the FSA and the Department of Health and other Government Departments and Agencies on matters concerning the toxicity of chemicals in food, consumer products and the environment.	<p>Working groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peanut allergy • Food intolerance • Variability & uncertainty in toxicology <p><i>A full list can be found here:</i> https://cot.food.gov.uk/cotwg</p>	Professor Alan Boobis	https://cot.food.gov.uk/
Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)	An independent committee which provides advice to government departments and agencies on the potential carcinogenicity of chemicals used in pesticides, pharmaceuticals and other products.	To assess and give advice on carcinogenic risk to humans.		Professor David Harrison	https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committee-on-carcinogenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment-coc

The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)	An advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by FSA and the Department of Health and Social Care and.	To advise government departments and agencies on the potential mutagenicity and genotoxicity of chemicals, from natural products to new synthetic chemicals in food, used in pesticides, pharmaceuticals and found in the environment.		Dr David P Lovell	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment
Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)	SACN advises on nutrition and related health matters. It advises Public Health England and other UK government organisations.	To advise on nutrition and health matters such as nutrient content of foods, nutritional status of people in the UK and nutrition of vulnerable groups (e.g. infants and elderly).	Working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal & child nutrition • Saturated fats • Older adults • Diabetes UK (Joint with NHS England) 	Dr Ken Ong	https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-committee-on-nutrition

Notes

- Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) for which the FSA is sole or lead sponsor are ACAF, ACMSF, ACNFP, COT and the Science Council.
- The FSA provides a joint secretariat for COT, COM and COC (the FSA leads Secretariat support for COT, and Public Health England leads the Secretariat for the sister Committees COM and COC).
- The SACN provides advice to FSA Northern Ireland; SACN works jointly with COT on specific issues