

**EU Exit Working Group of ACSS
Initial Meeting (1 May 2019, 2pm-3pm): Minutes**

Location

FSA, Clive House, 70 Petty France, London, SW1H 9EX
Skype

Attendees

Advisory Committee for Social Science

- Professor Spencer Henson (SH) - via Skype
- Dr Seda Erdem (SE) - via Skype
- Professor Dan Rigby (DR) - via Skype
- Dr Hannah Lambie-Mumford (HL)

Food Standards Agency

- Vanna Aldin (VA), Head of Analytics
- Lea Milanovic (LM), Economist & WG Secretariat
- Nuria Casadevall (NC), Economist & WG Secretariat
- Laura Broomfield (LB), Social Scientist – via Skype

No Apologies

Agenda

time	items	lead
14.00 - 14.10	1 Roundtable introductions	All
14.10 - 14.50	2. Discussion of ToRs 2.1 Objectives 2.2 Approaches 2.3 Deliverables 2.4 aob	LM / All
14.50 - 14.55	3. Summary of Action Points	LM
14.55 - 15.00	Aob and close	All

Materials

- Agenda
- Draft ToRs: DRAFT_v1_EU Exit Working Group Terms of Reference

Minutes

0. Welcome

LM welcomed all to the initial working group meeting for EU Exit and thanked the group for their contributions to the EU Exit Trade Effects project which they have provided prior to the official start of the WG.

The agenda was agreed without amendments.

1. Introductions

Members introduced themselves.

2. Discussion of ToRs

Members

SH agreed that he is happy to chair the group.

Dates

The group agreed to keep the provisional end date of March 2020.

Summary

The summary was agreed without amendments.

Background

It was agreed to add a paragraph to the background section with details on work that the FSA has already done in the area of EU Exit impacts.

Objectives

It was agreed that a third objective on understanding the dynamics of change of Brexit should be added.

It was agreed that the first objective should also include advice on measures to mitigate identified risks.

The group discussed that the impact on consumers could be wider than just food safety and public health risks and that this could be a large area, including e.g. affordability of food and consumer choice.

The FSA emphasised that a lot of work has already been done by the FSA on EU Exit and consumers. The WG noted that an overview of such work would be helpful to better tailor the scope of their work. It was agreed that the FSA will provide a stocktake of existing work around EU Exit impacts to avoid duplication of work.

VA emphasised that the WG will not be involved in all EU Exit work undertaken by the FSA due to the sensitivity of the matter and that the purpose of the WG is to provide strategic and forward-looking advice rather than reviewing existing work;

It was noted that in the coming months the focus of this group will be primarily around trade, business and industry rather than consumers. However, it was emphasised that the WG should not be limited by this guidance and should consider how economic changes impact on consumers interests in relation to food where appropriate, e.g. expected changes in dietary patterns as a result of changing product availability or prices.

It was agreed that the final ToRs will further specify the extent to which consumer impacts should be part of the WG objectives.

AP: FSA to provide a stocktake of relevant existing work around EU Exit.

Approaches

It was noted that bullet point 2 on engaging stakeholders might require FSA input as individual engagement would be difficult. WG Members were encouraged to emphasise their role as part of the FSA Advisory Committee when engaging with industry.

For bullets 3 and 4 on recommending research, methods and approaches, and data source, SE suggested to also provide advice on how to better make use of existing data and intelligence within the FSA. The group noted that more information is needed on what the FSA has already undertaken and further information on what data sources the FSA uses or has access to would be useful.

LM agreed to provide information on existing data sources where appropriate but emphasised that the purpose of this WG is to expand the FSA's knowledge and identify developments and impacts of which the FSA is not yet aware.

It was agreed that the Working Group will meet every 6 months (with correspondence between meetings) to provide process updates on agreed outputs in addition to the plenary ACSS meetings (twice a year).

AP: FSA to schedule next WG meeting for early July to discuss process updates (agenda to be agreed further to the date).

Deliverables

For the first deliverable, it was agreed that specific projects will not be mentioned in the ToRs as projects will be developed over time. It was agreed that one member of the WG would sit on the steering group for bespoke research projects. The Working Group will decide on a representative to sit on the steering group for the EU Exit Trade Effects project and inform the FSA shortly. LM explained that the ITT for the project has been published and that the next action from the steering group will likely be required end of May / early June.

It was discussed that due to the dynamic nature of EU Exit and the uncertainty around timings and expected impacts, additional outputs for bespoke work would be agreed as and when required. Bullets 2 to 4 were agreed without amendments.

AP: Group to decide on a delegate to sit on the EU Exit Trade Effects steering group.

AP: LM to circulate latest Evidence Specification for EU Exit Trade Effects project, including project timetable.

3. Summary of Actions

LM summarised the following Action Points:

No.	Action	Owner
1	ToR to be revised and sent out for comment	LM
2	A summary of what has been done / is being done on EU exit will be provided by the group and will include details of data sources	LM / LB
3	Invitation to next WG meeting in July will be circulated	NC
4	The group will nominate a delegate to sit on the steering group for the current EU Exit Trade Effects	SH / all ACSS

5	Latest Evidence Specification for EU Exit Trade Effects project, including project timetable, will be shared with the group	LM
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4. AOB and Close

No aob.