

Paper 3.2

FSA Scientific Advisory Committees Update (April 2019)

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: 6 March 2019

Agenda items:

- Working Group 4 - Data usage and digital technology¹
 - Presentation on data exploration, FSA surveillance Network
 - Introduction to FSA Data Fellow, Dr Anatol Wegner
 - Forward look and reflections on exploratory sessions with FSA staff on data use
- Working with the ACSS
 - Introduction to the ACSS, Julie Hill
 - The review of Food and You, George Gaskell
 - Joining up the ACSS and Science Council
- Working Group 3 – Global food system risks and horizon scanning²:
 - Finalising recommendations
- Science Council Chair's Annual Report to FSA Board

Minutes: To be published on the Science Council website once approved:

<https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-meetings>

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

Last meeting: 27 February 2019

Agenda items:

- Presentation from FSA official on future for SACs, including the ACAF.

¹ More information about Working Group 4 can be found here: <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-subgroups/science-council-working-group-on-data-usage-and-digital-technology>

² More information about Working Group 3 can be found here: <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-subgroups/science-council-working-group-on-food-system-risks-and-horizon-scanning>

- Update from Tim Riley, chair of the sub-group on feed additives and over-supplementation, on the outcome of the third meeting of the sub-group held in October 2018
- Update on work carried out since the June 2018 meeting on the issues surrounding raw pet food.

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

<https://acaf.food.gov.uk/acafmeets/acaf-open-meeting-27-february-2019>

Next meeting: 27 June 2019

Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

Last meeting: 18 October 2018

Agenda items:

- Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) in food. Review committee's opinion on the risk from STEC in raw and ready-to-eat foods to support decision making regarding the safety of these products.
- FSA's guidance on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods with respect to *Clostridium botulinum*. Update on current evidence relevant to this issue and recent work undertaken at Campden BRI and QIB Extra.
- FSA Surveillance Strategy.
- Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group. Update from Dr Paul Cook on the outcome of the EFIG meeting held on 27 July 2018.
- Outcomes from 25 January 2018 horizon scanning workshop. The Committee to discuss how to take forward the outputs from the workshop.

Minutes: https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm_min_93_october.pdf

Next meeting: 11 April 2019

Agenda items:

- Risk from Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) in raw and ready-to-eat foods.
- Evidence on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods and ongoing work taking place on this subject at the Quadram Institute.
- FSA's revised food surveillance system.
- Outcome of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group meeting held on 27 July 2018.
- Discussion on January 2018 horizon scanning workshop.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last meeting: 14 November 2018

Agenda items:

- Update on Traditional Foods. The Committee received an update on the experience of the traditional foods authorisation process under 2283/2015 EU and the handling of the way forward for recent applications seen by the Committee.
- Update on the future arrangements for risk assessment of regulated products. The Committee received an update on the approach of the FSA to managing the assessment of these products from next year (reserved business).
- Risk assessment frameworks for the UK. The considered their future ways of working in light of the changing context for novel food and GM food and feed risk assessment (reserved business).
- Overview of action taken by the Food Standards Agency following ACNFP advice.
- EU / Novel Foods policy Update.

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

<https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/meetings/acnfp-meetings-in-2018/acnfp-meeting-14-november-2018>

Next meeting: 7 May 2019

Agenda items:

- Discussion of notifications for traditional food from third countries
- Review of the annual report and associated governance processes to ensure these are up to date.

Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

Last meeting: 8 November 2018

Agenda items:

- Immunological and stromal cell modulations relevant to cancer risk
- Development of a framework for consideration of risk due to less than lifetime exposure
- Risk assessment of the effects of combined exposures to chemicals on carcinogenicity
- Horizon Scan
- Guidance Statement G07c

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>

Next meeting: 28 March 2019

Agenda items:

- Effect of combined exposure to chemicals on carcinogenicity Less-than-lifetime exposure to carcinogens Annual report
- Follow up to horizon scan and information on work of other organisations Overarching guidance statement (G01)
- Guidance statements
- Hazard identification and characterisation: animal carcinogenicity studies
- The use of biomarkers in carcinogenic risk assessment

Committee on Mutagenicity (COM)

Last meeting: 28 February 2019

Agenda items:

- Update of COM Guidance Series
- Test Strategies for manufactured nanomaterials
- Guidance Statement on the use of QSAR models to predict genotoxicity
- 3D Models for genotoxicity testing
- Test strategies for germ cell mutagens
- OECD Updates
- Horizon Scan

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: 6 June 2019.

Agenda items:

- Continued update of the COM guidance documents (this is an item which will take a few meetings to complete)
- Horizon scan for future issues COM should be aware of

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

Last meeting: 6 February 2019

Agenda items:

- Potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes).
- Potential risks from fumonisins in the diet of infants
- Potential risks from moniliformin in the diet of infants
- Potential risks from tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) in the diet of infants
- Risks to human health from the use of antimicrobials in chicken and other poultry (Reserved Business)
- Risks from residues of a class of veterinary product

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

<https://cot.food.gov.uk/cot-meetings/cotmeets/cot-meeting-06-february-2019>

Next meeting: 19 March 2019

Agenda items:

- Interspecies differences in developmental toxicity
- Phytoestrogens and thyroid function
- Use of Potassium as a salt replacement
- Adverse reactions arising from histamine in cheese
- Review of infant feeding and allergy
- Review of possible risks associated with chemical contaminants in the diet of children aged 1-5 years

Annex A - Overview of the FSA's Scientific Advisory Committees

Committee	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: https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-subgroups</i></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 David McDowell (Acting chair)	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.	Working groups include: <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