

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY FIFTH MEETING HELD ON 27th January 2021

ACNFP Secretariat
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These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee.

Members are required to declare any personal interest in matters under discussion. Where Members have a particularly close association with any item, the Chairman will limit their involvement in the discussion. In cases where an item is to be discussed in their absence, a Member may make a statement before leaving.

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES, HELD ON 27th JANUARY 2021, ONLINE USING MICROSOFT TEAMS.

ATTENDANCE

Committee	Dr Camilla Alexander-White	Chair
	Dr Anton Alldrick	Member
	Dr David Mela	Member
	Dr Hamid Ghoddusi	Member
	Dr Lesley Stanley	Member
	Dr Mark Berry	Member
	Dr Maureen Wakefield	Member
	Dr Rohini Manuel	Member
	Mrs Rebecca McKenzie	Member
	Ms Nichola Lund	Member
	Professor Clare Mills	Member
	Professor Huw Jones	Member
	Professor Paul Fraser	Member
	Professor Susan-Fairweather-Tait	Member
	Professor Wendy Harwood	Member
	Professor Susan Duthie	Member
	Professor Harry McArdle	Member
Assessor	Mr Paul Tossell	Head of Radiological, GM, Novel Foods & Feed Additives
Observers	Ms Claire Nicolson	Science Council
	Dr Sabrina Roberts	Senior GM Policy Advisor
	Mr Hoa Chang	GM Policy Advisor
	Ms Ivy Wellman	DEFRA Observer
	Mr Sean Simpkins	DEFRA Observer
	Dr Martin Cannell	DEFRA Observer
	Mr Shaun Jacobs	Senior Policy Advisor
	Mr Andrew Dodd	Novel Foods Policy Officer
	Mr Adam McDowell	Policy Advisor
	Mr Will Munro	Food Standards Scotland
	Ms Georgina Finch	Food Standards Scotland
	Ms Karen Pearson	Food Standards Scotland
	Ms Marianne James	Food Standards Scotland

Secretariat

Mrs Frances Hill
Mrs Erin Oliver
Mr Richard Uchotski
Dr Francisco Matilla-Garcia
Dr Rachael J Oakenfull
Ms Beth Rendle
Ms Sophy Wells

Technical Secretary

Senior Secretariat
Secretariat
Secretariat
Secretariat
Administrative Secretariat
Administrative Secretariat

1. Apologies and announcements

1.1 Dr Anton Alldrick declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in item 4 (CBD application). His interests were brought to the Secretariat's and Chair's attention ahead of the meeting. He withdrew from this aspect of the meeting; he did not participate in this discussion and did not have sight of the paper being discussed.

2. Meeting Minutes for 144th Meeting

ACNFP/144/MINS

2.1 The Committee had agreed the minutes via correspondence of the 144th meeting of the ACNFP held on 25th November 2020 and these were published on 21st January 2021

3. Matters Arising from the last meeting.

ACNFP/145/MA

3.1 The Committee discussed a new report on the risk profile of edible insects. The Secretariat thanked the Committee for their comments and suggested that any further comments would be welcome.

3.2 A horizon scanning literature review examining the key genome editing (GE) technologies being developed for potential use in food and feed applications was discussed. Comments received at the time have been collated and are being used to assist the genome editing report.

3.3 A literature review to i) identify available scientific literature detailing the hazards posed by existing GM and emergent GE techniques and ii) to compare the hazards posed by genome editing technologies to those posed by both conventional breeding and genetic modification techniques, was discussed. The Secretariat thanked the Committee for their comments and suggested that any further detailed feedback from Members would be welcome.

3.4 A generic Regulated Products Risk Assessment Template to be used by several Scientific Advisory Committees for a variety of topics was discussed and suggestions for improvement have been fed back to Risk Analysis Team and the template finalised.

4. CBD Application

ACNFP/145/01

4.1 The Committee reviewed a CBD application received under the novel foods authorisation processes and were asked whether there are safety concerns with the proposed use of this novel food in the UK.

4.2 Dr Anton Alldrick declared a conflict of interest with regards to reviewing the CBD dossier and was not present during its review.

The Review

4.3 Under the new application system that has been transposed into UK law from the EU under the terms of the withdrawal agreement, the Committee reviewed a CBD application to understand the complexities and generalities when reviewing an application.

4.4 The Committee first provided a general review of the application and then went through each section of the application. In this, they discussed the types of data that had been submitted, the strengths of the sections of the application, and the limitations. The Committee noted that the application met the basic requirements of process as set in law with regards to the formatting and completeness of the dossier. The Committee reviewed the scientific quality of the data and studies provided by the applicant to assure safety. Regarding the weaknesses and residual uncertainties, they noted that not enough description had been provided for the production process, that much of the literature data submitted did not pertain well to the CBD product to be marketed, and that the negative effects of CBD found in the literature and clinical studies were not fully addressed in the dossier.

Action: These comments will be collated, and a summary produced and sent back to the applicant

5. Update on ongoing work between the FSA, UKAS and LGC ACNFP/145/02

5.1 It is important to have reliable analytical methods to ensure that regulators can identify and quantify the cannabinoids present in CBD products with confidence. However, there are currently no accredited methods available for the analysis of CBD or many other cannabinoids. The FSA has been working with several partners to facilitate improvements in this area. Members were provided with information for information purposes.

Committee Comments in Response to the Information

5.2 The Committee expressed that analytical labs are analysing CBD from a forensic science standpoint, as there is very little experience of testing for CBD in a food and food supplement. In reality, the best experience in CBD analysis will lie with companies producing CBD. The Committee suggested that it would be wise to get these groups together, so that experiences can be shared and the correct analytical methods for CBD analysis developed. The Committee is aware of the issue of chirality in the synthesis of CBD and would ask that the analytical activity takes this into account.

5.3 The food matrix used in the process was discussed. It was suggested that a more complex matrix to test the robustness of the data/system could have been used. However, the Committee noted that the matrix represents what is achievable in the short term, and that there are new complexities that are emerging with regards to CBD analysis.

Action: These comments have been collated and will be used to assist the FSA development of CBD analysis

6. DEFRA consultation on the Regulation of Genetic Technologies ACNFP/145/03

6.1 Members were invited to consider and provide feedback on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs consultation on the regulation of genetic technologies.

Response

6.2 The Committee concluded that they would like to comment on section two part one of the Defra consultation. They agreed to set up a GM working group to formulate a response which will then be discussed by the whole Committee at the March ACNFP meeting.

Action: The Committee, working with a task & finish working group, will draft a response to part 1 of the consultation to send to DEFRA for 17 March 2021

7 Items for Information

7.1 Novel Food Policy Update

Oral

7.1.1 The Committee was provided with an oral update on the issues under consideration regarding novel foods.

7.2 GM Policy Update

Oral

7.2.1 The Committee was provided with an oral update on the issues under consideration regarding GM.

7.3 SACS Update

Written

7.3.1 The Committee was provided with a written update on the happening of the different SACS.

8 Date of next meeting:

8.1 The next meeting is scheduled for 3rd March 2021. The meeting will be online due to concerns surrounding Covid-19.