

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

TERMS OF REFERENCE & CODE OF PRACTICE

**Issue**

1. Since the end of the transition period on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 the ACNFP has had a greater role in considering applications for novel foods and genetically modified food and feed. There is a need to reflect the new ways of working accurately in the Terms of Reference (ToR) on the website as well as the Code of Practice (CoP). The Committee is asked to review and comment on the suggested revised text for the ToR and CoP.

**Background**

**Terms of reference**

2. The ACNFP website was updated last year to ensure the information was consistent with other FSA Committees. The text placed a focus on the Committees role at the time which primarily was in relation to the risk assessment of notifications of traditional foods from third countries.
3. On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 a new regulated product authorisation process for the UK after EU-Exit was opened. The Secretariat have updated the ToR to reflect this and the changes to the Committees ways of working, particularly the GM space (**Annex A**).

**Code of practice**

4. Expert committees that independently advise the Food Standards Agency (FSA) operate to a Code of Practice. The CoP defines the principles for the Committees when operating and are set in line with central government guidance.
5. In November 2019, the Secretariat composed a new CoP document, to explain how the ACNFP governs its operations. There had been a corporate move towards standardising the CoP's for all of the Scientific Advisory Committee's, with the aim of making them shorter and more succinct. As a result, the Code of Practice was revised.

6. In June 2020, the Committee reviewed the revised CoP. Following further amendment, the Committee reviewed and cleared the revised CoP in September 2020.
7. ACNFP Secretariat have now considered if any alterations were required post EU-Exit. A few minor changes have been identified in a revised text for input (**Annex B**). Additions are coloured in green.

### **Committee Action Required**

- Members are asked to review the revised Terms of Reference (**Annex A**) and comment on whether the content of the document is accurate and reflects the Committee's working practices.
- Members are also asked to review the Code of Practice (**Annex B**). As members have already reviewed the CoP in depth previously, members are asked to focus on the additions that have been made by the ACNFP secretariat.

### **Annexes**

Annex A - Draft revised Terms of Reference

Annex B - Draft revised Code of Practice

**Secretariat  
May 2021**