

Recent activity of the Scientific Advisory Committees

Committee	Recent activity	Further Information
Science Council	<p>Last Meeting: 6th March 2019</p> <p>The Science Council met in 'Working Group Configuration' on 6th March. Working Group 4 (data usage and digital technology) heard from the FSA Head of the Surveillance as the last of a series of exploratory interviews on data usage across the Department. Working Group 4 also heard from the FSA Data Fellow, Dr Anatol Wegner, and ACSS members Julie Hill and George Gaskell, in relation to data interest cross-over in the ACSS's Food and You Survey review and as wider good committee practice. The Working Group 4 Chair, Prof Patrick Wolfe, is working with the Secretariat to produce a short Phase 1 report, collating key reflections from discussions thus far. The Working Group 4 Chair, the CSA and Secretariat are in discussion with The Alan Turing Institute and the Internet of Food Things Network with respect to Phase 2 commissions. Working Group 3 (global food systems risks and horizon scanning) is finalising its report for hand over to the FSA. Working Group 3 discussed its drafted recommendations to the FSA and any required alterations or additions. The Working Group 3 final report and an initial FSA response will be available to the FSA Board in June 2019.</p> <p>Next meeting: Open plenary meeting 27th June 2019</p> <p>Agenda items will include implementation update by the Executive following hand-over and response to Working Group 1 & 2 recommendations at the Board in December 2018.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Sandy Thomas</p> <p>Secretariat: sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://science-council.food.gov.uk/</p>
Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)	<p>Last meeting: 4th Dec 2019</p> <p>The Committee heard updates from the three ACSS Working Groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working group updates – The Risk Communication and Behavioural Science Working Groups gave updates on activities since the last Committee meeting (Dec 18). Update papers can be found here: https://acss.food.gov.uk/acss-meetings/acss-meetings/acss-meeting-2nd-april. The Risk Communication group has reviewed the risk communications guidance which will sit alongside the FSA's new risk assessment framework. The Behavioural Science group have identified three priority areas for the FSA to design and pilot behavioural interventions: allergens, business registration, and Caloriewise. Both groups will be formally wrapped up over the next few months, but will continue to advise on risk communication and behavioural science matters on an ad hoc basis going forward. 	<p>Chair: Professor Susan Michie</p> <p>Secretariat: acss@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acss.food.gov.uk/</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Food and You – Chair of the Food and You Review Working Group, Professor George Gaskell, presented recommendations on the future direction of the FSA's Food and You survey. The full report and recommendations can be found here: https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fandyouurvey.pdf. It was agreed that this working group will formally wrap up but will be replaced by a 'task force' to implement the recommendations from the review. Future priorities – The Committee agreed to establish three new working groups looking at EU exit, emerging technologies, and assurance. The Committee will be presenting a paper at the September FSA Board meeting to provide assurance to the FSA Chair on social science in the FSA. <p>Next meeting: likely to be in Nov 2019 (date tbc).</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 14th November 2018</p> <p>The ACNFP discussed the future arrangements for risk assessment of regulated products, in light of the changing context for novel food, and GM food and feed risk assessment. ACNFP 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.</p> <p>The scheduled Teleconference for 13th February was cancelled due to the team not receiving any new traditional food applications to discuss with the committee.</p> <p>Next meeting: 7th May 2019</p> <p>The agenda is subject to applications that are received ahead of the meeting but are likely to include discussion of notifications for traditional food from third countries. The ACNFP will continue to consider working practices for the future and the Committee will be reviewing the annual report and associated governance processes to ensure these are up to date.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Peter Gregory</p> <p>Secretariat: acnfp@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 18th October 2018</p> <p>The ACMSF reviewed their opinion on Shiga toxin producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC) in raw and ready-to-eat foods, discussed latest evidence on <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> in vacuum packed chilled foods, including recent work undertaken at Campden BRI and Quadram Institute. Discussed the FSA's revised Surveillance Strategy, outcomes from the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group meeting in July, and how to take forward outcomes from January 2018 horizon scanning workshop.</p>	<p>Chair (acting): Professor David McDowell</p> <p>Secretariat: acmsf@food.gov.uk</p>

	<p>Recent subgroup activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ad Hoc Group on quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs), biocides and chlorine-based disinfectants used on food processing.</u> Group is considering the issue of rule changes concerning plant protection products maximum residue levels and their potential impact on food safety. ACMSF is working with the FSA, Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food and Health and Safety Executive in analysing industry's responses to ACMSF's request for evidence on industry's concerns on the implications of these changes. • <u>Ad Hoc Group on Campylobacter.</u> The Group's report (Third report on <i>Campylobacter</i>) was published for public consultation on 7 March 2019. • <u>Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.</u> Group has resumed its activities following the publication of the fixed-term task and finish report (AMR in the food chain; research questions and potential approaches) that was presented to the FSA Board in September 2018. • <u>Ad Hoc Group on Risk Assessment.</u> Group was setup in May 2018 and has agreed its terms of reference and its approach. Group met in November 2018 and February 2019 and are presently working on their report. • <u>Working Group on New Emerging Pathogens.</u> Recently considered the FSA's literature review on risks of consuming human placenta. <p>Next meeting: 27th June 2019</p>	<p>Website: https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 27th February 2019</p> <p>FSA officials presented information about future structure of SACs and changes affecting ACAF. The subgroup on feed additives and over-supplementation gave an update from their last meeting in Oct 2018, and there was an update on issues around raw pet food.</p> <p>Next meeting: 27th June 2019</p>	<p>Chair: Dr Ian Brown</p> <p>Secretariat: acaf@food.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://acaf.food.gov.uk/</p>

	<p>Agenda items will include finalising the discussion on raw pet food issues, and considering an executive summary of the work carried out by the subgroup on feed additives and over-supplementation, agreeing recommendations and advice provided by the subgroup by end of 2019.</p> <p>The ACAF Forward Work Plan will be discussed between the Chairman and the Secretariat, to decide on the priority of projects to be taken forward.</p>	
<p>Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 19th March 2019</p> <p>The COT discussed the potential for developmental toxicity from phosphate-based flame retardants, the potential toxicological risks from electronic e-cigarettes, both nicotine and non-nicotine types, and risks to health from additives not currently allowed in the EU (reserved business). An EFSA opinion on phthalates was also discussed, and the COT were given an update on the FSA SACs.</p> <p>Next meeting: 7th May 2019 Agenda: TBC</p> <p>The annual horizon scanning discussion highlighted priority areas to address in 2019 including the health effects of endocrine active chemicals, effects of chemicals on the microbiome, modelling kinetics, ongoing work of the Synthesising Epidemiological Evidence Subgroup (SEES), risk assessment regulatory frameworks, potency estimation project and microplastics.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Alan Boobis</p> <p>Secretariat: cot@food.ac.uk</p> <p>Website: https://cot.food.gov.uk/</p>
<p>Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)</p>	<p>Last meeting: 8th November 2018</p> <p>The COC heard a presentation on immunological and stromal cell modulations relevant to cancer risk by Professor Nigel Gooderham. The Committee discussed the development of a framework for assessing risk due to less-than-lifetime exposure to carcinogens, the effects of combined exposures to chemicals on carcinogenicity, the guidance statement and horizon scanning.</p> <p>Next meeting: 28th March 2019</p> <p>Agenda items will include further discussions on the above, a strategy for risk assessment of chemical carcinogens, discussion of a recent paper on the contribution of acrylamide exposure to carcinogenesis, and following up on horizon scanning.</p>	<p>Chair: Professor David Harrison</p> <p>Secretariat: COC@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/committees/on-carcinogenicity-of-</p>

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The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)	<p>Last meeting: 28th February 2019</p> <p>COM discussed test Strategies for manufactured nanomaterials, the use of QSAR models to predict genotoxicity, 3D Models for genotoxicity testing, test strategies for germ cell mutagens, OECD updates and horizon scanning.</p> <p>Next meeting: 6 June 2019</p> <p>Agenda items will include continuing the update of the COM guidance documents and horizon scanning for future issues COM should be aware of.</p>	<p>Chair: Dr David Lovell</p> <p>Secretariat: COM@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment</p>
Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)	<p>Last meeting: 8th November 2018</p> <p>SACN heard a research update about the health impacts of iodine status during pregnancy, discussed a review from the Saturated Fats Working Group and topics arising from horizon scanning were agreed to be considered at future meetings. SACN heard updates from working groups and subgroups (considering saturated fats, maternal and child nutrition, older adults and low carbohydrate diets for type 2 diabetes), other government departments and committees.</p> <p>Next meeting: 27th March 2019</p>	<p>Chair: Professor Ann Prentice</p> <p>Secretariat: SACN@phe.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-</p>

	Agenda items will include updates from working groups and subgroups, a scoping session on maternal nutrition, and further discussion of dietary reference values and the SACN framework.	<u>advisory-</u> <u>committee-on-</u> <u>nutrition</u>
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