

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHING AND COMMUNICATING RISK AND UNCERTAINTY.

Issue

The Committee is invited to consider the draft document attached (**Annex 1**) under development by the Science Council entitled Principles for establishing and communicating risk and uncertainty. Views from the Committee would be welcome in order to support establishing the best practice in principles in the work of the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

Background

1. Priorities for the work of the Science Council were set directly by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Chair, Heather Handcock, these included consideration of risk and uncertainty in scientific assessments. At the first meeting of the Science Council on 16 June 2017 a working group was formed to develop principles for establishing and communicating risk and uncertainty. The work of the group was divided into two phases described below:
 - Phase 1 considered the current FSA and other relevant approaches to establishing risk and uncertainty and produced a document on draft principles for best practice and what FSA should do to fill in gaps which have been identified and make improvements.
 - The working group has progressed to phase 2 which built on phase 1 and considered current and best practice in communication risk and uncertainty.
2. The attached document (Annex 1) brings together the principles from Phase 1 and 2 of the Science Council's Working Groups work.
3. The updated principles document in Annex 2 is subject to the Science Council's adoption at their meeting on the 27 June. However, there is expected to be an ongoing role for advisory committees in responding to the working groups recommendations and putting the principles into practice.

Committee Action Required

- Members are asked to comment on the attached document on the principles for establishing and communicating risk and uncertainty.

- Comments will be forwarded to the Science Council Secretariat for inclusion in their wider discussions and assist in developing the actions to take the work forward.

**Secretariat
June 2017**

Annexes attached:

Annex 1: Principles for establishing and communicating risk and uncertainty

Annex 2: Updated draft of the principles for adoption at the Science Council