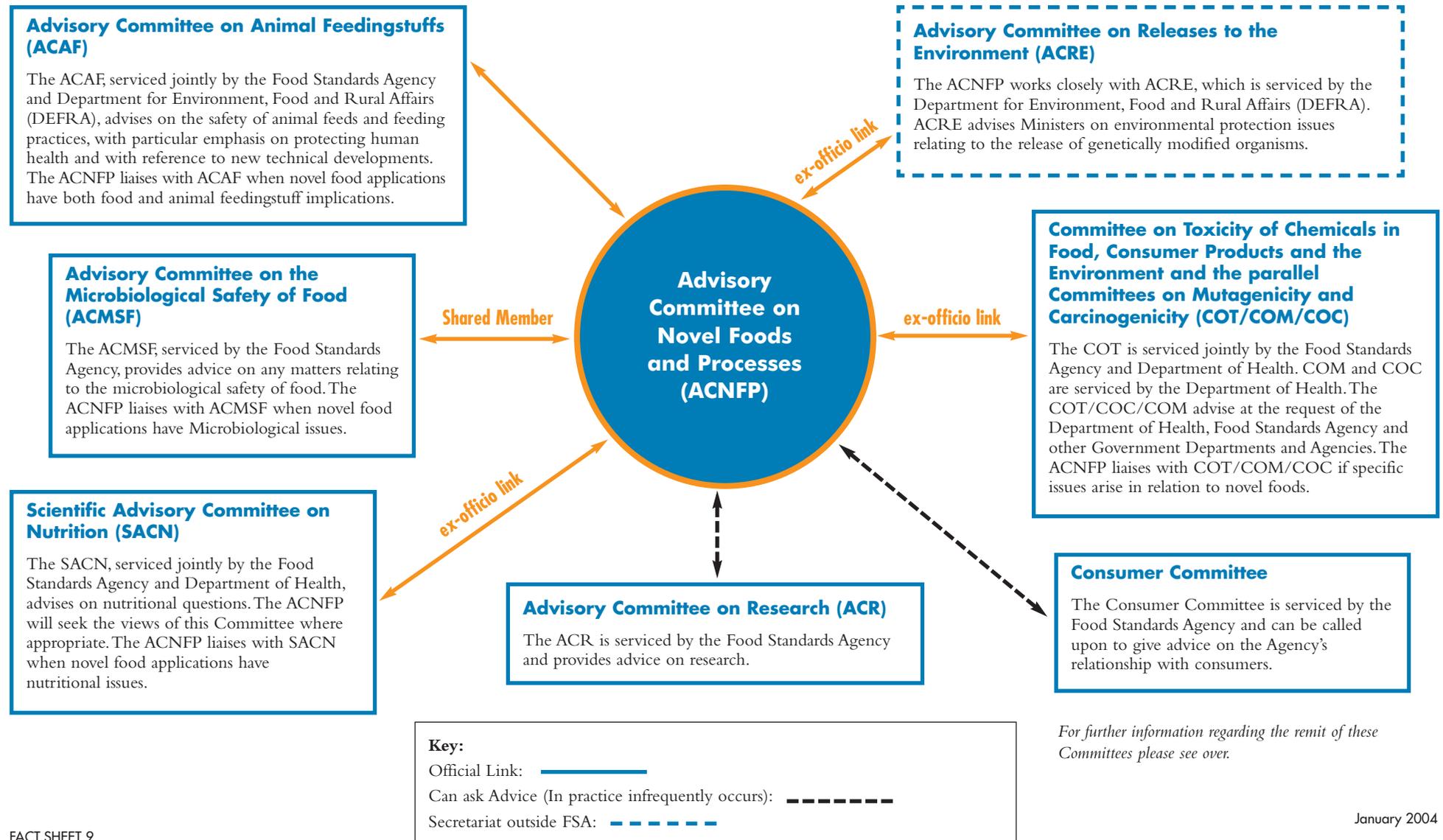


The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) is just one of a number of advisory committees that advise the Food Standards Agency. The diagram below gives a brief overview of the links between the ACNFP and other Committees.



The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes is an independent body of experts whose remit is: ‘to advise the central authorities responsible, in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland respectively on any matters relating to novel foods and novel processes including food irradiation having regard, where appropriate, to the views of relevant expert bodies.’

The remit of the other Committees are:

ACAF:

To advise the Food Standards Agency, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministers of the Scottish Executive, the National Assembly for Wales and the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland) 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. In carrying out its functions, the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs will liaise with other relevant advisory Committees as appropriate.

ACMSF:

To assess the risk to humans from micro-organisms which are used, or occur, in or on food, and to advise the Food Standards Agency on any matters relating to the microbiological safety of food.

SACN:

To advise the CMO's and/or the FSA, and thus, through the CMO's or FSA, the Government on Scientific aspects of nutrition and health with specific reference to:

- Nutrient content of individual foods, and advice on diet as a whole, including the definition of a balanced diet and the nutritional status of people;
- Monitoring and surveillance as above;
- Nutritional issues which affect wider public health policy issues, including conditions where nutritional status is one of a number of risk factors (eg: cardiovascular disease, cancer, osteoporosis and/or obesity.);
- Vulnerable groups (eg: infants and the elderly) and inequality issues; and
- Research requirements for the above.

ACR:

- To keep under review and advise the Board on the Agency's research and survey strategy;
- To advise the Board on research and survey priorities within the overall strategy of the Agency;
- To help the Agency to identify the best sources of research and survey expertise;
- To advise the Board on the Agency's research and science policy in relation to the EU and other collaborators;
- To advise the Agency on potential new research areas which the Agency should consider either funding itself or encouraging other organisations to fund; and
- To advise on any matters relating to research, surveys or science policy remitted to the Committee by the Agency Board.

Consumer Committee:

- Alert the Agency to key issues of current or emerging consumer concern;
- Comment on the Agency's strategic objectives and forward plan;
- Provide the Agency with feedback on the effectiveness of its policies in responding to consumer concerns;
- Advise on consultation methodologies, including ways of reaching vulnerable and hard to reach groups;

- Review the work of consumer representatives on advisory committees;
- Facilitate joint-working between the Agency and consumer groups; and
- Offer advice on any other issues that may be referred to it by the Board.

COT/COM/COC:

To advise at the request of: Department of Health, Food Standards Agency, Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, Department of Trade and Industry, Health and Safety Executive, Pesticides Safety Executive, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Medicines Control Agency, Medical Devices Agency, Home Office, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Executive, Northern Ireland Executive and other Government Departments and Agencies.

To assess and advise on the Toxic/Mutagenic/Carcinogenic risk to man of substances which are:

- Used or proposed to be used as food additives, or used in such a way that they might contaminate food through their use or natural occurrence in agriculture, including horticulture and veterinary practice or in the distribution, storage, preparation, processing or packaging of food;
- Used or proposed to be used or manufactured or produced in industry, agriculture, food storage or any other workplace;
- Used or proposed to be used as household goods or toilet goods and preparations;
- Used or proposed to be used as drugs, when advice is requested by the Medicines Controls Agency, Section 4 Committee or the Licensing Authority;
- Used or proposed to be used or disposed of in such a way as to result in pollution of the environment.

To advise on important general principles or new scientific discoveries in connection with toxic/mutagenic/carcinogenic risks, to co-ordinate with other bodies concerned with the assessment of toxic/mutagenic/carcinogenic risks and to present recommendations for toxicity/mutagenicity/carcinogenicity testing.'

ACRE:

- To advise the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Ministers and the Assembly Secretaries on Behalf of the National Assembly for Wales and other bodies as appropriate on the exercise of powers under Part VI of the Environmental Protection Act 1990;
- To advise Ministers and other bodies as appropriate on releases into the environment of Great Britain of animals and plants covered under sections 14 and 16 of the wildlife and countryside Act 1981;
- To advise the Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland) on releases of GM organisms into the Northern Ireland Environment for the purposes of the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993; and
- To provide to the Ministers on request scientific advice on GMOs, including advice on Health and Safety Commission and Executive in respect of the human health aspects of releases to the environment.