

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**INFORMATION PAPER****Updates from other Committees****Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)**

Formally established in April 2018, the Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS) provides expert strategic advice to the FSA on the use of the social sciences. The Committee met for the fourth time on 5th December 2019 to give update on activities since the last Committee meeting (April 19). Updates were given from each working group:

- **The Assurance Working Group** had discussed relevant FSA processes and identified future themes for the working group around: tender activity, post project reviews and guidance for drafting research specification and evaluation tender application.
- **The EU Exit Working Group** had provided valuable input into evidence specification for FSA planned commissions. The group will continue to provide advice on approaches currently taken by the AU to assess the economic impact of EU exit and to identify research gaps.
- **The Risk Communications Group** had advised on the specification, commissioning and reporting of a review of the current state-of-play of available risk communication guidance that is potentially applicable to food.
- **Horizon Scanning Working Group** had identified a risk of duplicating efforts as there is already an established FSA workstream on horizon scanning with annual workshop events being held with input from the Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC). The Committee has subsequently decided that instead of a separate working group it would prefer to feed into horizon scanning alongside the SAC.

Minutes from the 5th December meeting are under review and will be published on the website in due course. The next open meeting of the ACSS is proposed for June 2020.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last meeting: 27th November 2019

- **Traditional Food Dossiers:** The Committee assessed a traditional food dossier for Coffee Leaves. The summary for consultation is being constructed and will be up for a consultation after purdah.
- **Looking Forward:** The Committee carried out a horizon scan exercise. The areas it covered include: new protein sources, genetic editing technologies and healthy eating trends. The information will be collated and will be assessed to see if any of the points need to be taken forward.
- **Terms of Reference:** The Committee reviewed their terms of reference.
- **Allergy Workshop:** The Committee partook in an allergy workshop. This was led by experts who covered the scientific basis of developing allergy and what this meant for risk assessment in novel foods.

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 and GM workshop.

Next meeting: 24th January 2020.

FSA Science Council

Last Meeting: 17th Dec 2019 (Open session)

The Science Council met in Open Plenary Session on the 17th December and the following topics were covered:

- An update by the FSA Head of Science Strategy, Capability and Resilience (SSCR) on FSA work developing new Areas of Research Interest (ARI) and operationalising horizon scanning.
- Updates on progress of Science Council Working Groups 4 and Working Group 5.
- A discussion about the FSA Strategic Evidence Fund.
- Feedback on engagement between Science Council members and other Scientific Advisory Committees over the last quarter.

Next meeting: Open Plenary session on 24 June 2020.

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

ACAF has not met since June 2019. Although the Committee was scheduled to meet in October 2019 and February 2020 both these meetings have been cancelled.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 2 June 2020.

Advisory Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products, and the Environment (COT)

Last meeting: 3rd December 2019

The COT discussed potency estimation, PBPK modelling, turmeric, soy drinks, the risks of certain mycotoxins in the diets of infants and young children; and continued their consideration of the toxicological risks of electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes).

Next meeting: 27th January 2020

**Secretariat
January 2020**

