

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 fifth time on 16th June 2020 to give updated on activities since the last Committee meeting (December 2019). Updates were given from each working group:

- **The Assurance Working Group** Paul Turner from the Science Council attended the February 2020 workshop to ensure strong links between complimentary work being undertaken at both SACs. New processes of evaluation and impact capture were developed by the group and introduced to the social science team.
- **The EU Exit Working Group** has been ended as part of completing several of the original questions posed.
- **The Risk Communications Group** the communicating risk report was published and can be found here: [Communicating risk report](#) This drew on multiple research methods to inform development of a practical toolkit for communications personnel. The next steps will involve implementing the tools created.

Minutes and papers from the 5th ACSS meeting are published here: [5th ACSS Plenary meeting papers](#)

Related to the EU Exit working group ending, there will be an additional meeting of the ACSS to discuss the topics for potential new working groups on October 15th.

The next open meeting of the ACSS is proposed for 1st December 2020.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last meeting: 10th September 2020

- **COT CBD Position** – The Committee discussed the COT's/FSA position on the data limitations and information surrounding CBD.
- **CBD Applications** (Reserved business)- The Committee were asked to compare and contrast two CBD dossiers as a training exercise.
- **Request for Advice for CBD Applicants** – The Committee considered a request for advice to CBD applicants regarding the specifications in the event of a joint application
- **ACNFP Code of Practice:** The Committee discussed final changes to the Code of Practice.

Next meeting: 25th November 2020

At their next meeting, which will be online, the Committee are considering two GE literature reviews and a report on the risk profile of edible Insects.

Science Council

Last Meeting: 24 June 2020 (Open session)

The Science Council met in Open Plenary Session on the 24 June and the following topics were covered:

- The Chair's report of the last 6 months activity.
- FSA Science Updates:
 - FSA Horizon Scanning update –COVID-19.
 - COVID-19: Update and impacts.
- Updates on progress of Science Council's:
 - Working Groups 4 on data usage and digital technology (draft final report) and;
 - Working Group 5 on food hypersensitivity (review of progress and changes to schedule due to COVID-19)
- Discussion about development of an FSA Risk Communication Toolkit.
- Discussion of engagement between Science Council members and other Scientific Advisory Committees over the last six months.

Next meeting: Open Plenary session on 3 December 2020.

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

Last meeting: 27th June 2019

Next meeting: No dates set for 2020 meetings – Committee under review

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

Last meeting: 15th September 2020

The COT discussed the maternal diet, chitin and chitosan based food contact materials, dioxins, cumulative mycotoxin exposure, microplastics and plant-based drinks. the COT Terms of Reference and Code of Practice.

Next meeting: 27th October 2020

**Secretariat
October 2020**