

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 on 1st December 2020 to discuss:

- Working groups: assignment of members and Chair to each of the new working groups (Kitchen Life and Climate Change).
- Update from Prof. Sandy Thomas on the working group outputs from the Science Council
- Catriona McCallion (FSA Chief Scientist Team) presented the progress from the third-party evidence review
- The ACSS workplan for 2021 was discussed alongside ongoing collaboration with the Science Council.
- Previous Food and You working group members, Professor Ann Murcott and Joy Dobbs presented a paper on the origins of Food and You.

[Minutes and papers from the 6th ACSS meeting.](#)

Activity since the last meeting:

- The first meeting of the Kitchen Life working group has been held.
- Continuing to develop plans for a workshop to define work of the climate change and consumer behaviour working group.
- Starting the SAC appraisal exercise in April/May.

The next open meeting of the ACSS is in June 2021.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last meeting: 3rd March 2021

- **DEFRA consultation on the Regulation of Genetic Technologies-** The Committee commented on the genetic technologies' consultation response drafted by the GM working group.

Next meeting: 21st April 2021

At their next meeting, which will be online, the Committee will be considering two new novel food applications for Mung Bean Protein and Barley Rice Protein, be reviewing a CBD feedback statement and the 2020 Annual Report.

Science Council

Last open meeting: 3 Dec 2020 (Open session)

- The FSA Chief Executive, Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) and Head of Food Safety Policy explained practical issues facing the FSA from 1 January 2021.
- An update on progress of Working Group 5 on food hypersensitivity was given by the review lead, including plans for a horizon scan workshop to be held in March 2021.
- The FSA CSA and Head of SSCR discussed developments in FSA science, and EU Exit.
- The Science Council was updated on a new rapid evidence review, to codify minimum quality standards for evidence submitted to the FSA.
- Council members gave a brief read-out of SACs meetings they had attended.
- The Chair discussed her last 6 months activity and looked forward to 2021.

Next open meeting: 10 June 2021

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: 23rd March 2021

Topics discussed included:

- The potential effects that excess iodine intake may have during preconception, pregnancy and lactation
- Development of Human Biomonitoring Guidance Values
- in the HBM4EU biomonitoring project
- Update to the COT Position paper on the potential risk of CBD in CBD food products
- Draft report on the synthesis and integration of epidemiological and toxicological evidence in risk assessments.
- First draft non-technical statement on how the Committees evaluate the relevance and reliability of data when assessing a chemical of concern?

Next meeting: 4th May 2021

**Secretariat
April 2021**