

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

**Last meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 – Open session

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 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. Issues considered include:

- The FSA's analytics unit's key projects.
- Working groups provided updates at their various work stages, with particular focus on the new Climate Change and Consumer Behaviour working group and the need to work closely with the science council, and identify other relevant work (within the FSA, and internationally).
- Update on the activities of the FSA's the Science Council (provided by Prof Sandy Thomas).
- Presentations on Food and You 2 Wave 1 results, and key messages from the climate change and consumer behaviour expert workshop. Key findings from both were discussed.

Minutes and papers from the 7<sup>th</sup> ACSS meeting will be posted on the website in due course.

**Recent activity:**

- The first meeting of the *Kitchen Life* working group has been held as part of the wider Advisory group for the project to review the literature review recently conducted. Following the meeting it was agreed that Basis would review the research approach to reflect some of the suggestions made and risk assessment at the FSA would be assessed so the research can better suit its needs. Further involvement for the group is planned in an ad hoc capacity to help with the ethics process.
- The aim of the ACSS working group on *climate change and consumer behaviour* is to map emerging and potential consumer behaviour trends onto the FSA's objectives in order to inform FSA policy in the coming years. A workshop was held mid-May to support that aim by:
  - fast-tracking understanding of the current thinking and research in this area,
  - facilitating deliberation and focus of the ACSS working group, increasing potential for strategic impact

- enabling the working group to identify and network with the research community in this area.
- Secretariat conducting the SAC appraisal exercise.

The **next open meeting** of the ACSS is in December 2021.

### **Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)**

**Last meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021

- **Mung Bean Protein** - The Committee considered the response provided to the request for further information regarding this novel food application.
- **Barley Rice Protein**- The Committee considered the response provided to the request for further information regarding this novel food application.
- **CBD Response RP07 (Reserved Business)**- The Committee considered the response provided to the request for further information regarding this novel food application.
- **Update on Regulated Products & Risk Analysis Processes**- The Committee were provided an update on work conducted in other areas of the FSA.
- **Gene Editing (GE) Workshop (Reserved Business)**- The Committee discussed developments in this area.

**Next meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### **FSA Science Council**

**Last open meeting:** 10 June 2021 (Open session)

- The Chair presented a summary of the last 6 month's Science Council activity.
- The members agreed the principles & guidelines and final report for the critical review of the appraisal of third-party evidence.
- Update on FSA activity since last year's Council recommendations on data usage & digital technology (WG4). Further Council engagement is being considered.
- The CSA updated the Council on his recent activity and discussions (including gene editing, labelling reform, genomic surveillance and net zero carbon).

- A discussion of the recommendations from the Council food hypersensitivity review (WG5), FSA current activity and future plans in this area, and lessons learnt.
- Updates of Science Council attending Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs).

**Next open meeting:** 9 December 2021

### **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.

**Next meeting:** No dates set for 2021 meetings – Committee under review

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

**Last meeting:** 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Topics discussed included:

- The sub-statement on the potential risks from oral exposure to microplastics (this paper was postponed from the July meeting)
  - A Public Consultation on Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees and Councils
  - A discussion paper on the potential effects of excess Vitamin A on maternal health
  - A draft statement addressing the potential effects of excess Vitamin D intake may have during preconception, pregnancy and lactation
  - They finalised their interim position paper discussing the recent EFSA opinion on titanium dioxide.
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- **Next meeting:** 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## **Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)**

**Last meeting:** 15th July 2021

Topics on the agenda included:

Revised Synthesis and Integration of Epidemiological and Toxicological Evidence (SETE) report, updates to guidance statements (use of biomarkers, hazard identification and characterisation, alternatives to the 2-year bioassay), Terms of Reference for the OPSS Scientific Advisory Group.

### **Brief Summary of the SETE report**

The COT and COC established the SETE Subgroup to review and document current practice and provide applicable guidance on how different evidence streams should be integrated in risk assessment, in a transparent manner, giving appropriate weight to both. SETE recognised that issues on which advice from the Committees is sought varies considerably and hence the guidance proposed should be sufficiently flexible to address this.

All lines of evidence should be considered, with no specific hierarchy a priority. The decision-making process thereby should be robust, transparent, evidence-based, defensible and documented but equally importantly, it should be easy to use. Collaboration and ongoing dialogue between epidemiologists, exposure experts and toxicologists are strongly advised.

One way to clearly depict the impact/influence of the different lines of evidence on the null hypothesis of causality is via visual representation. Decisions on whether there is sufficient information to reach a conclusion or whether a causal relationship in humans is more likely or less unlikely can be reached based on where the causal interference appears on a graph.

The conclusion should be stated, with an estimate of the overall uncertainty and, where appropriate, guidance on how data gaps could be filled.

**Next meeting:**

18 November 2021

## **The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)**

**Last meeting:** 10 June 2021

Topics discussed included:

- Review of EFSA opinion on titanium dioxide
- Horizon scanning
- Dose-response and genotoxicity presentation
- Draft paper on Toxicogenomics and Next Generation Sequencing
- Nanomaterial Testing paper
- Mini-Ames assay presentation

**Next meeting:** 12 October 2021

## **Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)**

**Last meeting:** 10th June 2021

Issues considered include:

- Nutrition and COVID-19
- Feeding young children aged 12-60 months
- Plant-based drinks

**Next meeting:** 10th November 2021

## **FSA Quarterly Newsletter**

This Newsletter covers updates on all FSA SAC activities. Please let the secretariat know if you did not receive the first edition sent earlier in October 2021.

**Secretariat  
October 2021**

