

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

DISCUSSION PAPER

AN UPDATE ON VIRUSES IN THE FOOD CHAIN

1. The *Ad Hoc* Group on Foodborne Viral Infections met between November 2010 and July 2013 to assess the extent of foodborne viral infection in the UK and have produced an updated risk profile based on their findings.
2. The *Ad Hoc* Group considered information on all foodborne viruses including new and emerging viral pathogens and identified that the most important viruses associated with foodborne infection were norovirus, hepatitis A virus and hepatitis E virus. The focus of the group's report concentrates mainly on these foodborne viral infections in the UK. The report also takes account of two recent comprehensive reviews of viruses in food that have been published by WHO (2008) and EFSA (2011). The report provides key information that will be used to inform Risk Assessment and Risk Management on foodborne viruses across government.
3. At the January 2014 ACMSF meeting, the *Ad Hoc* Group presented a draft report of its work to the Committee (ACM 1134a). At that meeting the ACMSF agreed the report should be the subject of a public consultation exercise. This public consultation took place between March 2014 and May 2014.
4. Comments received in response to the consultation have been considered by the *Ad Hoc* Group and responses provided to the issues raised. The report has been amended in response to the comments received.
5. Members are invited to:
 - Approve the attached ACMSF response (ACM/1164a) to the consultation for publication on the FSA website.
 - Approve the report (ACM/1164b) and agree that it should be submitted to the FSA Chief Scientific Adviser for approval for final publication.