

ACMSF Forward Work Plan 2015/16

Last reviewed January 2015

This work plan shows the main areas of ACMSF's work over the next 12 to 18 months. It should be noted that the Committee must maintain the flexibility to consider urgent issues that arise unpredicted and discussions scheduled in the work programme may therefore be deferred.

ACMSF Terms of reference

To assess the risk to humans of microorganisms which are used, or occur, in or on food, and to advise the Food Standards Agency on any matters relating to the microbiological safety of food.

	Topic	Progress	Expected Output
1	<p>Horizon scanning</p> <p>The ACMSF's last horizon scanning exercise resulted in the establishment of a subgroup to consider the microbiological risks associated with raw, rare and low temperature cooked foods. The subgroup's report on this topic was published in June 2014.</p> <p>A horizon scanning workshop to identify potential topics, including any emerging microbiological risks will be taken forward.</p>	<p>Horizon scanning workshop to be held in January 2015.</p>	<p>List of outputs from the workshop including short-listed priorities for more in-depth consideration.</p>

	Topic	Progress	Expected Output
2	<p>Foodborne Viral Infections</p>	<p><i>The Ad Hoc</i> Group on Foodborne Viral Infections draft final report was issued for public consultation in January 2014. Consultation comments and revised report to be presented to the Committee in January 2015.</p>	<p>FSA publication of an ACMSF report on foodborne viral infections highlighting risks to consumers, identifying any research and surveillance gaps and providing recommendations.</p>
3	<p>Newly Emerging Pathogens</p> <p>The Newly Emerging Pathogens Working Group provides advice on the significance and risks from newly emerging or re-emerging pathogens through food chain exposure pathways.</p>	<p>Continuous.</p>	<p>The Committee to draw the FSA's attention to any risks to human health from newly emerging pathogens via food.</p>
4	<p>Microbiological Surveillance of food</p> <p>The Surveillance Working Group provides advice as required in connection with the FSA's microbiological food surveillance programme and any other surveillance relevant to foodborne disease.</p>	<p>Working group activities are continuous.</p> <p>Committee to consider the FSAs survey on <i>Listeria</i> in cooked-sliced meat at its January 2015 meeting.</p>	<p>Surveillance Working Group/Committee comments on survey protocols and survey results for consideration by FSA in their microbiological food surveillance programme.</p>

	Topic	Progress	Expected Output
5	<p>Developing trends in relation to foodborne disease</p> <p>The Committee receives updates on research, surveys, investigations, meetings and conferences of interest.</p>	<p>As issues arise</p> <p>EFIG¹ update will be provided at the January and June 2015 meetings.</p>	<p>ACMSF provides comments on the updates it receives for the FSA's consideration.</p>
6	<p>International and EU developments on the microbiological safety of food</p> <p>The Committee is updated on issues of relevance and significant developments at an EU and international level on microbiological food safety, such as EFSA opinions and Codex Committee on Food Hygiene meetings.</p>	<p>As issues arise.</p>	<p>ACMSF to note updates and provide comments if desired.</p>
7	<p>Microbiological Incidents and outbreaks</p> <p>The views of the Committee will be sought where necessary and updates provided on outbreaks of significance.</p>	<p>As issues arise.</p>	<p>ACMSF assessment of the risks in relation to significant microbiological outbreaks/incidents.</p>

¹ Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group

	Topic	Progress	Expected Output
8	<p>Antimicrobial resistance</p> <p>ACMSF published a report on microbial antibiotic resistance in relation to food safety in 1999. Progress on the Committee's recommendations was reviewed in 2005 and 2007.</p>	<p>The Committee were updated on developments and emerging issues in relation to antimicrobial resistance in January 2013 and agreed to set up a subgroup to consider antimicrobial resistance and food chain issues in more detail. The subgroup has four meetings scheduled in 2015. Summaries of discussions and recommendations are provided at plenary meetings.</p>	<p>ACMSF assessment of the key risks to the food chain which may have consequences for human health and identification of key research or surveillance gaps in relation to the food chain.</p>
9	<p><i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> and possible health risks associated with meat</p>	<p>The Committee will be asked to review the risk level classification for health risk associated with the consumption of meat from animals with evidence of <i>M. bovis</i> infection. Committee to use the <i>M.bovis</i> and raw milk risk assessment framework. Uncertainties are to be highlighted before risk classification is considered.</p>	<p>ACMSF assessment of risk to human health in relation to the consumption of meat from animals with evidence of <i>M.bovis</i> infection.</p>
10	<p>Social science research relating to microbiological food safety risks</p>	<p>The Committee will receive updates on the findings of social science research which may have a bearing on the assessment of microbiological food safety risks.</p>	<p>ACMSF to note updates and provide comments if desired.</p>

	Topic	Progress	Expected Output
		<p>Committee to consider findings from Wave 3 of the Food and You Survey at its January 2015 meeting.</p>	
11	<p>Risk assessment of <i>Salmonella</i> from shell eggs</p>	<p>The Committee to assess the current level of risk from shell eggs following changes in <i>Salmonella</i> infections in humans and layers since the Committee's last report in 2001. To be considered at the Committee's January 2015 meeting.</p>	<p>ACMSF's assessment of the risks that may be associated with consumption of shell eggs.</p>
12	<p>Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) vaccination field trials</p>	<p>Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to carry out a risk assessment on the safety of meat and milk from vaccinated animals participating in a field trial. It is anticipated that the Committee will be briefed on the field trial and asked to comment on the risk assessment. The final report is expected to be published later in 2015.</p>	<p>ACMSF's views will be used to inform a decision on whether meat/milk from vaccinated animals can enter the food chain.</p>
13	<p>Food safety risk of recycled manure solids use as bedding for dairy cattle</p>	<p>The Committee to consider the food safety implications of the use of green bedding/recycled manure solids for dairy cattle in January 2015.</p>	<p>ACMSF views will be taken into account by the FSA in formulating its position on this practice.</p>