

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 third time on 2 April 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:

- **Working group updates** – The Risk Communication and Behavioural Science Working Groups gave updates on activities since the last Committee meeting (Dec 18). Update papers can be found here: <https://acss.food.gov.uk/acss-meetings/acss-meetings/acss-meeting-2nd-april>. The Risk Communication group has reviewed the risk communications guidance which will sit alongside the FSA's new risk assessment framework. The Behavioural Science group have identified three priority areas for the FSA to design and pilot behavioural interventions: allergens, business registration, and Caloriewise. Both groups will be formally wrapped up over the next few months, but will continue to advise on risk communication and behavioural science matters on an ad hoc basis going forward.
- **Review of Food and You** – Chair of the Food and You Review Working Group, Professor George Gaskell, presented recommendations on the future direction of the FSA's Food and You survey. The full report and recommendations can be found here: <https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fandyoursurvey.pdf>. It was agreed that this working group will formally wrap up but will be replaced by a 'task force' to implement the recommendations from the review.
- **Future priorities** – The Committee agreed to establish three new working groups looking at EU exit, emerging technologies, and assurance. The Committee will be presenting a paper at the September FSA Board meeting to provide assurance to the FSA Chair on social science in the FSA.

Minutes from the meeting have been published [here](#). The next meeting is likely to be in Nov 2019 (date tbc).

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last meeting: 7th May 2019

- The ACNFP discussed three traditional food summaries that will be uploaded to the ACNFP website to support the openness of the Committee's discussion of notifications under the traditional foods process.
- A new traditional food application was discussed.
- The ACNFP received an update on the future arrangements for risk assessment of regulated products (Reserved Business)
- The 2018 Annual report was discussed.

Prior to this we also had a meeting on 14th November 2018

The ACNFP discussed the future arrangements for risk assessment of regulated products, in light of the changing context for novel food, and GM food and feed risk assessment. ACNFP received an update on the experience of the traditional foods authorisation process under 2283/2015 EU and the handling of the way

forward for recent applications seen by the Committee.

Next meeting: 10th July

The agenda is subject to applications that are received ahead of the meeting but are likely to include discussion of notifications for traditional food from third countries.

FSA Science Council

Last Meeting: 6th March 2019

The Science Council met in 'Working Group Configuration' on 6th March. Working Group 4 (data usage and digital technology) heard from the FSA Head of the Surveillance as the last of a series of exploratory interviews on data usage across the Department. Working Group 4 also heard from the FSA Data Fellow, Dr Anatol Wegner, and ACSS members Julie Hill and George Gaskell, in relation to data interest cross-over in the ACSS's Food and You Survey review and as wider good committee practice. The Working Group 4 Chair, Prof Patrick Wolfe, is working with the Secretariat to produce a short Phase 1 report, collating key reflections from discussions thus far. The Working Group 4 Chair, the CSA and Secretariat are in discussion with The Alan Turing Institute and the Internet of Food Things Network with

respect to Phase 2 commissions. Working Group 3 (global food systems risks and horizon scanning) is finalising its report for hand over to the FSA. Working Group 3 discussed its drafted recommendations to the FSA and any required alterations or additions. The Working Group 3 final report and an initial FSA response will be available to the FSA Board in June 2019.

Next meeting: Open plenary meeting 27th June 2019

Agenda items will include an implementation update by the Executive following hand-over and response to Working Group 1 & 2 recommendations at the Board in December 2018 and discussions of what SC can do in the allergen space.

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

ACAF met on 27 February 2019. Items discussed at this meeting included:

- the future of SACS;
- feed additives; and
- raw pet food.

ACAF is scheduled to meet on 27 June 2019. We have not as yet planned the agenda. Details of meetings and other information on the work of the Committee is available on the ACAF website - <https://old.food.gov.uk/committee/acaf>

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

The COT met on 7 May and below is the agenda:

- Male reproductive toxicity of a novel feed additive, 3-nitro-oxypropanol (3-NOP) (Reserved Business)
- Update on work being undertaken on risk analysis in preparation for EU exit (Reserved Business)

- Review of potential risks from mycotoxins in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years. Fusarenon-X
- Review of potential risks from mycotoxins in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years. Cyclopiazonic acid (CPA)
- Review of potential risks from mycotoxins in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years. Patulin
- Review of potential risks from 2-MCPD, 3-MCPD and glycidol and their fatty acid esters in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years.
- Scoping paper on the potential risks from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- Review of potential risks from contaminants in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years – Additional information on TAs
- Committee statement on phosphate-based flame retardants and the potential for neurodevelopmental toxicity – second draft
- Potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes):
- Toxicity assessment of flavourings used in E(N)NDS: Vanillin
- Toxicity assessment of flavourings used in E(N)NDS: Cinnamaldehyde

The next COT meeting will be held on 2 July.

**Secretariat
June 2019**