

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD
INFORMATION PAPER

Updates from other Committees

Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)

Last meeting: 2nd April 2019 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 2018). Update papers can be found at: <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 Calorie wise. Both groups have been formally wrapped up 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/fandyousurvey.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 established three new working groups looking at EU exit, horizon scanning, and assurance. The Committee will be presenting an annual update paper at the December FSA Board meeting.

ACSS's meeting minutes can be found at:

<https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/minutesapril.pdf>

The next open meeting of the ACSS will be on 5 December 2019.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last meeting: 11th of September. This was a teleconference that ACNFP used to discuss the FSA's risk analysis guidelines.

Committee commented on the tier 2 and tiers 3 of the guidelines. The comments were captured by the FSA and provided to Jo Edge (Risk Assessment Transformation Leader, Science, Evidence and Research Division, Food Standards Agency.)

Next meeting: 27th November: 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. The meeting will be the last meeting of the year and may contain a training workshop on GM dossiers and allergy.

FSA Science Council

Last Meeting: 27th June 2019. The Science Council met in Open Plenary Session on the 27th June and the following key areas were covered:

- A report was given by the Science Council Chair on how she and the FSA are exploring the building of stronger relationships with other Scientific Advisory Committees within the FSA and wider Government.
- The Chief Scientific Adviser reported on the Science Capability Review, a cross-government exercise commissioned by Treasury, and the recent National Audit Office report on the FSA.
- The FSA's Deputy Director of Science updated the Science Council on the implementation of the Science Councils Working Group 1 and 2 recommendations, informing members that the FSA has made good progress in building science capacity well as developing a robust risk analysis process. Working Group 1 reviewed and provided recommendations on Science Capability and Assurance of the FSA and Working Group 2 reviewed and provided recommendations on establishing and reporting risk and uncertainty.
- In a report on Working Group 3 on Horizon Scanning, its Chair Prof John O'Brien informed members that that groups report and recommendations had been welcomed by the Board and the FSA Chair, Heather Hancock, had thanked the Working Group for its work, saying that what had been delivered was in excess of expectations. Going forward the FSA will ensure that high-level horizon scanning is embedded into the FSA's work.
- The Working Group 4 Chair, Prof Patrick Wolfe reported on discussions on the Internet of Food Things Network (IoFT) and Data Trust Proof-of-Value study that will be delivered in 12 months. Following discussions at the FSA Board on food hypersensitivity, there was a closed workshop after the morning plenary

meeting to consider how the Science Council may provide further support and assurance in this area, with the FSA Director of Policy, Rebecca Sudworth.

Update

The Working Group Workshop on 12th Sept 2019 unpicked what the Science Council can do to support FSA initiatives on Food Hypersensitivity, discussing Terms of Reference for a new working group. Progress on Working Group 4 was also discussed with an updated delivery schedule proposed and timing for delivery of the Phase 1 report. Finally, the Science Council started to explore key principles when setting outcome-based measures to determine success. Chair: Professor Sandy Thomas
Secretariat: sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk Website: <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/>

Next meeting: Open Plenary session on 17 December 2019.

This meeting will include discussion of progress on Working Group 4 and the new Working Group 5 on food hypersensitivity.

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

The ACAF meeting held on 27 June 2019.

As part of the work for EU Exit, the FSA is building its capability and structure of the scientific advisory committees (SAC). This allows effective management of the SAC work, as well as providing a clear separation of risk assessment and risk management. The meeting was therefore separated into two halves, the morning session covered risk assessment issues whilst the afternoon session covered risk management topics.

The following items were discussed:

Morning Session

Future of Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) – as a result of the UK's decision to leave the EU, the FSA has been reviewing the structure of its SACs to ensure that the FSA will be able to access independent expert advice to meet its needs after the UK leaves the EU. An official from the FSA provided the Committee with an update on the FSA's activities being undertaken in preparation of the UK's departure from the EU. The Committee was informed of the new structures and made aware of the recruitment of 35 new members across joint expert groups and committees. The Chairman was delighted that members of ACAF would continue to be giving the FSA their independent expert advice.

Additionally, the ACAF Secretary provided members of the committee with an update on future potential options for how the FSA could access their risk management advice in the future.

Feed Additives and Over-supplementation - the Committee has considered how to improve communication with the feed industry to emphasise the importance of compliance with maximum permitted levels set for trace elements in feedstuffs. At the October 2017 meeting, Members agreed to establish a Working Group to address compliance and to make recommendations based on its research. The Chairman of the working group updated members on the outcome of the fourth meeting of the sub-group held in June 2019, which included recommendations to address over-supplementation.

Afternoon Session

Feed Additives and Over-supplementation - following the update provided in the morning the Committee discussed the recommendations and focused on possible risk management options to progress the recommendations.

Raw pet food – the raw pet food sector is a rapidly growing industry in the EU and UK. The Defra Assessor (Stephen Wyllie) presented a revised draft guidance document on raw pet food which had been discussed at the previous two committee meetings. Members were invited to comment and clear the guidance for publication. The paper was well received by ACAF members and the Committee was content with the guidance provided. Some minor suggestions were provided by members for consideration and potential revision of the document. Changes resulting from these comments will be incorporated into a revised version of the document prior to publication.

The next ACAF meeting will be held in 2020 – the date has yet to be set.

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

Last meeting: 17th September 2019. The COT discussed the risk analysis guidelines, the EFSA dioxins opinion, a scoping paper on endocrine disruptors, turmeric, curcumin and hepatotoxicity, the risks of mycotoxins in the diets of infants and young children; and continued their consideration of the toxicological risks of electronic nicotine and non-nicotine delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes).

Next meeting: 22nd October 2019.

Secretariat
October 2019