

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 25 JANUARY 2018 MEETING**

The attached schedule records action taken on matters arising from the Committee's ninetieth meeting held on 25 January 2018.

**Secretariat  
May 2018**

**RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF  
THE NINETY-FIRST (ACM/MIN/91)**

| ACM/MIN/91<br>Para       | Topic and action required   | Action taken  |
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| 4.1                      | <p><b>Minutes of 90<sup>th</sup> meeting</b></p> <p>Members approved the minutes of the 90<sup>th</sup> meeting as a correct record. Secretariat to post these on the ACMSF website.</p>  | Actioned.   |
| Para 6.3                 | <p><b>First Draft of ACMSF Report on <i>Campylobacter</i></b></p> <p>Joy Dobbs, David McDowell and Ann Williams to suggest a few lines on the catering section (chapter 8) acknowledging risk associated with eating pink duck. Secretariat to check whether there is information from the PHE study which could be included in the report.</p>   | Work in progress. Members' comments on the report have been passed on to the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Group and a revised draft is being produced. |
| Para 6.3 (second bullet) | Query on Chapter 3: Epidemiology of <i>Campylobacter</i> in humans. It was pointed out that surveillance data did not reflect disease in the population. Member concerned about text in report to provide appropriate information that could be included in the report. Secretariat to request this and send to Sarah O'Brien for inclusion in report.  |   |
| Para 6.3 (third bullet)  | "There had been a change to more sensitive laboratory testing, which may mean that in future years more cases would be detected". Wording to reflect above statement to be incorporated in report. Sarah O'Brien to include this in chapter 3 (Epidemiology section).   |   |
| Para 6.3 (fourth bullet) | Chapter 1 ( <i>Campylobacter</i> biology and tools for detection). Query on the number of places where "heat/heat resistance" has been mentioned in the report. A member of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Group responded that whilst heat resistance needed further exploration there was not sufficient evidence to say that the advice of cooking for 70°C for 2 minutes needed to change. Secretariat to liaise with the author of the chapter about putting the heat resistance text into context in the report. |   |

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| Para 6.3 (fifth bullet)   | In relation to information paper ACM/1267 ( <i>Campylobacter</i> trends 2015-2017), Prof Sarah O'Brien confirmed that she was unaware of data in paper when she was drafting chapter 3. Chapter would be updated along with the data on raw milk. Sarah O'Brien to update chapter.  |  |
| Para 6.3 (sixth bullet)   | A member commented that it would be helpful to include a definition of DALYs and QALYs as a way of measuring illness burden. Sarah O'Brien to action.   |  |
| Para 6.3 (seventh bullet) | Chapter 7 (Risks in the food chain: Red meat, raw milk and fresh produce). A member pointed out that the information on raw fruit and vegetables showed there had been a 10% increase in consumption between 2007 and 2015; this was a step-change in consumer behaviour. However, the data in the report mainly pre-dated that change and the data was not from UK-based surveys. This change in behaviour should be highlighted and the Group should consider making a recommendation for further work on this. Peter McClure to action.  |  |
| Para 6.3 (eighth bullet)  | Chapter 9: "how new knowledge influences risk assessment". A member pointed out that from Chapter 2 it was clear that although a vast amount of whole genome sequence (WGS) data on <i>Campylobacter</i> had been collected, this did not seem to have influenced risk assessment although it was used in source attribution. He asked whether the full value of research into sequencing <i>Campylobacter</i> was being achieved, as it was not evident in chapter 9. Prof O'Brien agreed that no-one really knew how best to use WGS and although there was a lot of activity on source attribution this hadn't fed into quantitative microbiological risk assessment. A research recommendation might be needed on this. Working group to add this as a general recommendation to chapter 9. |  |
| Para 6.3 (ninth bullet)   | A member pointed out that Chapter 9 (How new knowledge influences risk assessment) was difficult to read and questioned whether the title was the right one. Working group to review and discuss at next teleconference/meeting.  |  |

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| <p>Para 7.7</p>  | <p><b>ACMSF fixed-term task and finish group on antimicrobial resistance</b></p> <p>Paragraph 65, where following paragraphs describe various forms of secondary processing activities, also including cooking.</p> <p>There is no detail provided of the “considerable evidence”. This should be included, to help support the statement. Fixed-Term T&amp;F Group to action (If appropriate, the report should cite studies that contribute to this considerable evidence).</p>   | <p>Actioned. Paper has been finalised (ACM/1278 refers).</p> |
| <p>Para 7.8</p>  | <p>In paragraph 75, it is recommended that the FSA should commission research on “the impact of currently used sub-lethal food processing technologies...”. This was queried as it was pointed out that in theory, this could include many processes. Fixed-Term T&amp;F Group to consider appropriate terminology (e.g. define what is meant by “sub-lethal” – sub-lethal to what?) and how the various activities referred to are prioritised.</p>  | <p>Actioned. Paper has been finalised (ACM/1278 refers).</p> |
| <p>Para 7.9</p>  | <p>Paragraph 73 refers to the observation that it is becoming increasingly clear that sublethal stresses trigger defence/repair mechanisms and that in foods stored or processed under inadequate bacteriostatic conditions, sublethally damaged populations constitute hotspots in development and dissemination of AMR. The Poole ref cited (Poole, 2012) as evidence for sublethal stresses triggering defence/repair mechanisms also considered whether these stresses are likely to lead to AMR development. Fixed-Term T&amp;F Group to consider appropriate material in the cited paper that could be reflected in the report.</p> | <p>Actioned. Paper has been finalised (ACM/1278 refers).</p> |
| <p>Para 7.10</p> | <p>It was suggested that the Amachawadi <i>et al</i> (2015) paper refers specifically to use of heavy metals in animal feeds and this could also be mentioned. Fixed-Term T&amp;F Group to action.</p>  | <p>Actioned. Paper has been finalised (ACM/1278 refers).</p> |

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| Para 7.11 | An editing point highlighted. Paper mentions there's considerable evidence that secondary process can support AMR (paragraph 14) but later on in section (paragraph 23) stated that there's a considerable lack of data in relation to AMR in UK produced and imported foods. Fixed-Term T&F Chair to check and resolve this dichotomy.   | Actioned. Paper has been finalised (ACM/1278 refers). |
| Para 7.12 | A couple of the sentences in the animal feed section appear to be contradictory. Para 36, it says "The sources of such AMR pathogens can be multiple, but animal feed has been identified as an important reservoir". However, in para 37, it says, "There is a paucity of information regarding AMR in animal feed (residues and resistance in bacteria)". Fixed-Term T&F Group to address this inconsistency. | Actioned. Paper has been finalised (ACM/1278 refers). |
| Para 7.13 | A member suggested including a bullet point in the "general conclusions and overarching themes identified by group" emphasising the overall complexity of AMR as it interlinks with other areas not directly linked to the food chain. Fixed-Term T&F to include a bullet in overarching themes section to capture the overall complexity of AMR and where food fits in.  | Actioned. Paper has been finalised (ACM/1278 refers). |
| Para 8.14 | <b>Raw drinking milk (and certain raw milk products)</b><br><br>Following comments made on paper ACM/1256, it was agreed that a revised paper would be presented to members at the Committee's next meeting.  | Actioned. Paper ACM/1269 refers.                      |
| Para 11.1 | <b>Output from horizon scanning workshop</b><br>Secretariat is to present the Committee with a summary of the discussions members had at the above workshop for members to rank the topics.   | Actioned paper ACM/1272 refers.                       |
| Para 12   | <b>Dates of future meetings</b><br><br>As it was mentioned that the Committee's next meeting date might be moved, Secretariat to trawl the Committee for a alternative date in May 2018.  | Actioned.   |