

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

**REVIEW OF RISK PROCEDURES USED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S
ADVISORY COMMITTEES DEALING WITH FOOD SAFETY**

1. At the end of March 2000, Sir Robert May (at that time, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser) was asked, together with Professor Liam Donaldson (the Chief Medical Officer) and Sir John Krebs (Chairman of the Food Standards Agency) to undertake a review of the way in which the Government's scientific committees dealing with food safety handle risk.
2. Further background on the review, together with a copy of the note provided at Sir Robert's request by Professor Georgala on the ways in which the ACMSF handles questions of risk, were provided for Members at the Committee's 36th meeting in paper ACM/474.
3. The Report of the May Group was published on 2 August 2000 and circulated to ACMSF Members on 10 August. A copy is attached for ease of reference. On 13 September, Sir John Krebs wrote to Professor Georgala suggesting that the ACMSF might include a discussion of the May Group's report in one of its forthcoming meetings and that the Committee might subsequently produce a note of the actions it decides to take in response to the report's recommendations. Professor Donaldson wrote in similar terms on 16 October.
4. Members are invited to consider what actions they deem it appropriate for the Committee to take in response to the recommendations of the May Group report with a view to a note being prepared in response to Sir John's request.

Secretariat

November 2000

Department of Trade and Industry. Review of Risk Procedures used by the Government's Advisory Committees dealing with Food Safety. Report of the Group led by Sir Robert May, Chief Scientific Adviser. July 2000. Crown copyright; August 2000. <<http://www.dti.gov.uk/URN 00/979>>