

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

### CAMPYLOBACTER WORKING GROUP : PROGRESS REPORT

#### Development of draft

1. The full ACMSF considered and commented on the *Campylobacter* Working Group's nearly complete draft Second Report on *Campylobacter* on 18 September. The Committee's comments, together with new material for inclusion in the draft Report, were considered by the Working Group on 8 October. Following that meeting, the Secretariat was asked to prepare a revised, complete, draft, reflecting the outcome of the 8 October meeting. This has now been done and has gone back to the Working Group for final clearance in correspondence.

#### Consulting the full ACMSF

2. As soon as Working Group clearance of the draft has been obtained, it will go to the full Committee for clearance, again in correspondence.

#### Public consultation

3. The Food Standards Agency has requested that the ACMSF should consult publicly on its draft Second *Campylobacter* Report. This public consultation will take place as early as possible in 2004.

#### Informing the Food Standards Agency

4. It has been the ACMSF's intention to get its advice to the FSA as early as possible in order that the Agency can take full account of it in developing its *Campylobacter* reduction strategy. Advice has therefore been fed into the Agency as it became available. In keeping with this philosophy, once the ACMSF has endorsed the full draft Report, the Chairman will submit it to the Chairman of the Food Standards Agency. It is hoped that this stage should be reached before Christmas or early in 2004. At that time, the intention will be to make the draft publicly-available, probably through the Committee's webpages.
5. Consideration of the need to amend or expand the draft will take place following the period of public consultation.

## **Research**

6. The draft Report focuses on the short to medium-term practical measures for tackling *Campylobacter* which may assist the FSA in developing its *Campylobacter* reduction strategy. Research opportunities and needs where there are significant gaps in knowledge, and which fall into a longer-term time frame, have not been addressed. However, the Working Group will meet again in January 2004 to consider research needs. Supplemental advice to the FSA will be developed as necessary.

**Secretariat  
November 2003**