

# **Update on the work of other Scientific Advisory Committees- May 2022**

**This is a paper for discussion.**

**This does not represent the views of the Committee and should not be cited.**

## **Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC) Summary of recent activities**

This document summarises the recent activity of the FSA's Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs). We highlight topics discussed at the most recent meeting and agenda items for the next meeting.

## **Contents**

**Committee**

Recent activity

**Further Information**

Updated: January 2022.

Last open meeting: 9 December 2021 (Open session).

- The Chair presented a summary of the Science Council's activity over the last 6 months.
- The FSA provided an update on the Annual Science report to the FSA Board and the development of key performance indicators (KPIs) for FSA science.

Chair: Professor Sandy Thomas

## **Science Council**

- The CSA updated the Council on his recent activity and discussions (including the Government spending review, gene editing food, food labelling and alternative proteins).

Secretariat:

[sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk](mailto:sciencecouncil@food.gov.uk)

Website: [science-council.food.gov.uk](https://science-council.food.gov.uk)

- An update on progress of Working Group 6 on Food Safety and Net Zero Carbon (including the workshop on 18 November).
- Updates from Science Council members attending Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs).

Next open meeting: 23 June 2022.

Updated: April 2022.

Last meeting: 26th Jan 2022 (8th plenary, open session).

Key agenda items:

- FSA updated on key projects within the Analytics Unit, including new work programmes: Behavioural Trials and Wider Consumer interests.
- Updates on working group activity.
- A proposal for an economics working group was discussed.
- Update from Prof. Sandy Thomas on working group outputs from the Science Council, and recruitment.
- Strategy team presented the emerging FSA strategy and the ACSS secretariat reported an initial assessment of how well ACSS expertise, and the FSA social science research plan, address key strategy topics.

Minutes and papers are available on the [website](#).

Working group highlights:

- The Climate Change and

Updated: April 2022.

Last meeting: 30 March 2022.

The Chair and Secretariat were involved in new members recruitment prior to the meeting. Minutes for the 151th meeting were agreed.

- Dossiers on Barley Protein and on Cetylated fatty acids were removed from the agenda, to be presented in the following meeting instead; these are the first novel food dossiers to reach the stage of initial draft opinion in the new UK assessment process, requiring careful consideration of the approach and detail levels.

- One traditional food dossier on Bambara Ground Nut was assessed; there were further considerations of what is not requested from the guideline while necessary for risk assessment, and what would be considered as reasoned safety objections.

Chair: Dr Camilla Alexander-White

Secretariat:  
[acnfp@food.gov.uk](mailto:acnfp@food.gov.uk)

Website: [acnfp.food.gov.uk](https://acnfp.food.gov.uk)

**Advisory  
Committee on  
Novel Foods  
and Processes (ACNFP)**

- The Mung Bean protein dossier returned for assessment.
- The formation of a new subgroup of ACNFP and

Updated: 15 February 2022.

The Committee's last meeting was on 09 February 2022. The issues they considered include:

An information paper summarising action taken on points arising from the minutes of previous meetings [Matters arising](#).

A presentation on the FSA's path-safe project [PATH-SAFE: Tracking Foodborne Pathogens and Antimicrobial Resistance Microbes](#).

FSA's ongoing Kitchen Life 2 project [FSA's Kitchen Life 2 Project](#).

The work of the committee over the years and a forward look on future work areas [100th Meeting of the ACMSF - Reflections](#).

**Advisory  
Committee on  
the  
Microbiological  
Safety of Food (ACMSF)**

The UKFSR focussing on the chapter related to foodborne disease and incidents [UK Food Security Report 2021](#).

FSA surveys on frozen breaded/battered chicken products. This was considered in closed session.

Information papers sent to members include:

- [ACMSF Work plan](#)
- [Update from other Committees](#)

Chair: Professor Bill Keevil

Secretariat:  
[acmsf@food.gov.uk](mailto:acmsf@food.gov.uk)

Website: [acmsf.food.gov.uk](http://acmsf.food.gov.uk)

**Advisory  
Committee on  
Animal Feeding  
stuffs (ACAF)**

Last meeting: 27th June 2019.

Next meeting: No dates set for  
2021 meeting Epidemiology of F  
gs – Committee under review.

Secretariat:

[acaf@food.gov.uk](mailto:acaf@food.gov.uk)

Website: [acaf.food.gov.uk](http://acaf.food.gov.uk)

Updated: April 2022.

Last meeting: 29th March 2022.

Topics discussed included:

At their March meeting the Committee discussed items including the potential risk to human health of [turmeric and curcumin](#) supplements, potential approaches to [mixture risk assessment](#) for future UK REACH assessments and an updated discussion paper on the bioavailability of nicotine and other ingredients from the use of oral [nicotine pouches](#) and the first draft of a statement on the effects of [cadmium](#) on maternal health. The Committee continued work on draft statements considering the effects of excess [Vitamin A](#) in the maternal diet and on the risk assessment of [cow's milk](#) in children aged 1 to 5 years, in the context of the plant-based drinks evaluations.

Chair: Professor Alan Boobis

Secretariat: [cot@food.gov.uk](mailto:cot@food.gov.uk)

Website: [cot.food.gov.uk](http://cot.food.gov.uk)

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

- Next meeting: 10th May 2022.

Updated: April 2022.

Last meeting: 2 March 2022.

Topics on the agenda included:

**Committee on  
Carcinogenicity  
of Chemicals in  
Food, Consumer  
Products and  
the  
Environment  
(COC)**

- Hydroxyanthracene derivatives in supplements.
- Horizon scanning.
- Annual report.
- Update to guidance statements including biomarkers, interpretation of cancer risk characterisation and alternative approaches.

Chair: Professor David Harrison

Secretariat:  
[COC@phe.gov.uk](mailto:COC@phe.gov.uk)

Website: [committee-on-carcinogenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment-coc](https://www.phe.gov.uk/about-us/committees-and-groups/committees/committees-on-carcinogenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment-coc)

Next meeting: 21 July 2022.

Further meetings: 17 November 2022.

Updated: April 2022.

Last meeting: 1 March 2022.

Topics discussed included:

- Review of EFSA opinion on titanium dioxide.
- Hydroxyanthracene derivatives in supplements.
- Horizon scanning.
- BPA
- Smoke flavourings.
- Draft COC guidance statement “The Use of Biomarkers in Carcinogenic Risk Assessment.
- Draft COC, COM and COT document “How do the Committees evaluate the relevance and reliability of data when assessing a chemical of concern?”

Chair: Prof Gareth Jenkins

Secretariat:

[COM@phe.gov.uk](mailto:COM@phe.gov.uk)

Website: [committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment](https://www.phe.gov.uk/about-us/committees/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment)

**The Committee  
on Mutagenicity  
of Chemicals in  
Food, Consumer  
Products and  
the  
Environment  
(COM)**

Next meeting: 9 June 2022.

Further meetings: 13 October 2022.

Updated: March 2022.

Last meeting: 10th November.

Topics discussed included:

Chair: Professor Ian Young

**Scientific  
Advisory  
Committee on  
Nutrition  
(SACN)**

- Feeding children aged 1-5.
- Nutrition and COVID.

Secretariat:

[SACN@phe.gov.uk](mailto:SACN@phe.gov.uk)

Website:

[scientific-advisory-  
committee-on-nutrition](https://www.phe.gov.uk/about-us/scientific-advisory-committee-on-nutrition)

Next meeting: Friday 17th June  
2022;

Further meetings:

Friday 11th Nov 2022.