

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS**

**65th Meeting of ACAF on 22 October 2014**

**Information Paper**

**UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

**Secretariat  
October 2014**

## UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### Purpose

1. This paper outlines issues from other advisory committees that may be of interest to ACAF.

### Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

2. The ACMSF met on 26 June 2014. The meeting was attended by two new committee members: Prof Peter McClure who had been appointed to provide expertise in microbiological risks and food processing, and Dr Dan Tucker, appointed to provide expertise in veterinary public health.
3. The Committee received 3 presentations:
  - Helen Atkinson (FSA SSRU) and Dr Wendy Wills (University of Hertfordshire) presented the findings of the Kitchen Life Study (insight into foodborne disease risk from domestic kitchen practices). Kitchen Life is part of a package of the FSA's research on domestic practice that has its roots in the work ACMSF and SSRC had carried out on the increased incidence of listeriosis in the UK.
  - Prof O'Brien (ACMSF Chair), in her role as the lead contractor from the University of Liverpool, presented the findings of the Infectious Intestinal Disease 2 attribution study.
  - Miss Tanya Cheney (Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency) presented the findings of a baseline survey of pigs at slaughter. The survey was a monitoring programme of Salmonella, Toxoplasma, Hepatitis E virus (HEV), Yersinia, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus (PRRSv), Campylobacter and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase (ESBL) E. coli in UK pigs at slaughter.
4. In addition, Dr Paul Cook, Scientific Secretary of ACMSF, provided feedback to the Committee on the actions taken in response to the recommendations in the Committee's Toxoplasma report, and an update on the work of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group.
5. Prof John Coia updated the Committee on recent meetings of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Working Group. Summaries of the AMR working group meetings can be found on the subgroups page of the ACMSF website at:  
  
<http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfsubgroups/amrwg/>
6. The next ACMSF meeting will be held in January 2015.

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

7. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in November 2014.

**Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)**

8. The full committee has not met since the last ACAF meeting but its sub-group on harm has met twice. This sub-group was set up to follow-up ACRE's 2013 work examining the most effective approach to environmental risk assessment of genetically modified organisms under the current regulatory framework, by specifically considering how environmental harm can be defined or measured in this context.

**The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)**

9. The COC last met on 14 July 2014. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by one of the members on the use of zebrafish in biomedical research.
10. The committee continued its assessment of alcohol and cancer with a review of alcohol and liver cancer risk, including consideration of the literature on how cessation of alcohol consumption affects the risk of liver cancer. The Committee's advice on alcohol and cancer will be published in a statement in due course.
11. The COC was consulted on a draft Scientific Opinion by the European Food Safety Authority on Acrylamide in Food. Its advice will go forward with that from the COT as a response to the official EFSA consultation in due course. It also considered a second draft statement on vitamin E and the risk of prostate cancer.
12. The next meeting will be in November 2014.

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

13. The COT met on 2 September 2014 and discussion items included:

- consultation of the European Food Safety Authority on a Draft Scientific Opinion on Acrylamide in Food;
- scoping paper on the potential risks from hexabromocyclododecanes (HBCDDs) in the infant diet;
- first draft statement on adverse effects of high levels of vitamin D;
- first draft statement on domoic acid in King Scallops (*pecten maximus*);
- first draft statement on the potential risks from polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in the infant diet; and
- paper for information: COT review of risks arising from the infant diet and the development of atopic and autoimmune disease.

14. The next COT meeting will be on the 28 October.

### **General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)**

15. The last GACS meeting was held on 19 March 2014. It was preceded by the GACS annual spring dinner on 18 March. Draft minutes and meeting papers are available at <http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

16. The GACS annual report 2013/14 has recently been published at <http://multimedia.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/committee/gacs/gacs-sixth-report.pdf>

17. The GACS Chair presented his annual report to the FSA Board on 10 September (the presentation slides will be available on the GACS website).

18. The autumn GACS meeting is scheduled for 29 October. Provisional agenda items include:

- report on science in the FSA (report from Chief Scientific Adviser Professor Guy Poppy and Director of Science, Evidence and Research Dr Penny Bramwell);
- update on FSA Science and Evidence Strategy – early thinking on development of the strategy to 2020 and beyond;
- scientific staffing in the FSA;
- science in the SACs - update on SAC activities; progress on FSA actions in response to SAC advice;

- interim report from the Joint GACS/SSRC Working Group on Use of Evidence; and
- GACS work plan (discussion item).

### **Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)**

19. The SSRC held their fourteenth meeting on the 30th September 2014 and items discussed included:

- organisational changes: implementation of new arrangements for Chief Scientific Advisor (Prof Guy Poppy) and Director of Science, Evidence and Research (Penny Bramwell) - presentation by Penny Bramwell, Director of Science, Evidence and Research;
- third Report from the Strategy Sub-Group;
- third Report from the ESRC Sub-Group;
- ESRC Nexus network (Food, Energy and Environment) - presentation by James Wilsdon and Rose Cairns;
- Elliott Review Recommendations and Government Response - presentation by Steve Wearne, Will Creswell and Penny Bramwell;
- Strategic Plan Development - presentation by Angela Towers;
- progress update on the development of the Food Standards Agency Strategy 2015-20;
- FHRS evaluation final report;
- update on Recommendations - presentation of paper by Sian Thomas and Penny Bramwell;
- working group on evidence report - Presentation of paper by Peter Jackson and Liza Draper;
- Agency Forward Evidence Plan update - presentation by Sian Thomas;
- Review of Forward Work Plan; and
- update on sub-groups, working groups and advisory groups.

20. Agenda and papers are published on the committee website at:

<http://ssrc.food.gov.uk/>

### **Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC)**

21. The VRC held meetings on 17 June and 11 September. At the meetings, the Committee received updates on the progress of the Statutory and Non-Statutory Surveillance programmes for the UK and the results from testing of imports under the National Monitoring Plan. Also discussed at the meetings:

- a trend analysis of statutory programme non-compliant results;
- horse passport legislation and guidance for owners on horse medicines and passports; and
- the results of the FSA's current 100% testing programme for phenylbutazone in horses.

22. Papers from the meeting can be found on the VRC website:  
<http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/vrc/meetings/papers.html>

23. The Committee also held an open meeting on 11 September which was attended by representatives from the Veterinary, Food, Equine and Agriculture industries as well as other regulatory public bodies. Attendees received presentations on:

- the work of the Committee during the past year;
- the Matrix Rank System for risk-based surveillance;
- flukicide use and the possible impact of recent flooding; and
- imports surveillance and the work of the Border Inspection Posts.

24. Papers and presentations from the Open Meeting can be found on the VRC website:

<http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/vrc/meetings/open.html>

25. The Committee published its Annual Report for the 2013 surveillance year. The report can be found at: <http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/vrc/pdf/reports/vrcar2013.pdf>

26. The next meeting will take place on 20 November.

## **Appointments and Recruitment Exercises**

### **ACRE**

27. A recruitment campaign to find 2 new members for the committee is nearing completion and it is hoped that the appointments will be made shortly.

### **ACMSF**

28. ACMSF has re-appointed three members. Additionally, it is currently in the process of appointing two new members.

**ACAF Secretariat  
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