

ACSS Round-Up November 2020 – February 2021

Highlights

- **Covid-19 tracker waves five to eight publication on 8th December.** Some key findings were:
 - 1 in 5 respondents reported cutting down on meals for financial reasons.
 - Food insecurity was a particular issue for younger age groups with 38% of 16-24 year olds experiencing it.
 - Continuation of a large age differential in reported food bank/charity usage. 26% of 16-24 year olds accessed food this way compared to 3% of those aged 45-54.
 - Between 20-38% of people continue to eat risky foods past their use by dates
- **The Trade Cooperation Agreement (TCA)** was agreed late 2020. The agreement sets out a framework of rules for trade between the UK and the EU. The TCA ensures:
 - No tariffs on goods exported by the UK
 - No quotas placed on UK exports
 - A reduction in unnecessary trade restrictions between the UK and EU
- **The latest publication of the EU exit tracker** was published in November 2020. The January wave will also be published soon.

Other news / updates

- **Website review** – The secretariat is undertaking an in-depth review of content on the ACSS webpage. Additional content for working groups

and the ACSS secretariat will be added alongside restructuring the page links. Members are encouraged to share their views and feedback of the website with [Catherine Bartle](#).

- **Plastic packaging alternatives report published.** The report, conducted by a University of Cambridge intern, found that a transition away from traditional plastics is accompanied by many unintended consequences, e.g. health hazards, allergic reactions, shorter shelf life and a possibly worse environmental impact. The report makes the following recommendations:
 - Facilitate a combined approach between government agencies overseeing the UK food supply chain
 - Share knowledge between the public, private and academic sectors
 - The need to develop evidence-based regulations for plastic alternatives

The Consumer perception of food risk report was published on the 3rd February. Some key findings were:

- Participants were most likely to be influenced by personal experience, perception of control and familiarity when assessing risk
- They paid particular attention to new and surprising information and the severity of consequences.

Dr Rebecca Gillespie

Secretary to the Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)

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Useful Links

[FSA Website](#)

[ACSS Website](#)

[Science Council Website](#)

Upcoming events

Conference: [International Food Regulatory Analysis Conference](#)

Date: 9th and 10th March (half days)

Day 1: Protecting public health in food in challenging times

Day 2: Achieving Regulatory Excellence in the 21st Century

Conference: Food Hypersensitivity Symposium

Date: 23rd & 24th March 10am – 1:30pm

Details: Speaker sessions and interactive workshops exploring safety, choice and trust in people with food hypersensitivities.

Publication: Citizen Science and Food: A Review

Date: 5th March (TBC)

Details: This report explores the method and provides example illustrating how Citizen Science has been applied to the FSA research priorities.

UKRI/FSA Joint Call: Citizen Science for Food

Date: Call opens 18th March

Details: This call will support pilot projects that use citizen science methods to address key biological, economic and social research themes related to food standards, such as safety and fraud, as identified in the Food Standards Agency [Areas of Research Interest](#). Details of the call will be available on the [UKRI funding finder](#) from the 11th March.

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