



25th MEETING
23rd October 2008, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6NH

Draft Minutes

Chairman	Professor Alan Jackson
Members	Professor Peter Aggett Professor Annie Anderson Dr Paul Haggarty Professor Tim Key Professor Ian Macdonald Dr David Mela Mrs Stella Walsh Mrs Christine Gratus Dr Tony Williams Professor Peter Kopelman
Government Observers and other attendees	Dr Fiona Bissett (Scottish Directorate of Health and Wellbeing) Mrs Maureen Howell (Welsh Assembly) Dr Alison Tedstone (FSA)
Secretariat	Dr Sheela Reddy (DH) Dr Elaine Stone (FSA) Ms Lynda Harrop (FSA) Mr Michael Griffin (FSA) Ms Rachel Coomber (DH)

Closed Session

1. The Chair welcomed Members to the 25th SACN meeting. Prior to the main business of the meeting, which would be held in open session, there was one item for discussion in closed session: the SACN draft statement on “Good Night” Milks.

Agenda item 2 – Draft statement on “Good Night” Milks (SACN/08/26)

2. Dr Tony Williams introduced the paper, which was drafted by the Maternal and Child Nutrition Sub Group (SMCN), after a request from Non-Governmental Organisations, professional bodies and Royal Colleges to the Department of Health to provide advice on the use of “Good Night” milk products.
3. The Committee were asked to comment on the statement and several concerns and revisions were noted. The Chair requested that once the Secretariat has revised the statement accordingly, the revised document be circulated to Members for final agreement before being published on the SACN website. Members also expressed concern about the lack of consultation with the industry to which the Secretariat agreed to contact the relevant companies before releasing the statement on the website.

Action: Secretariat

Open Session

4. The Chair welcomed Members, Observers and external attendees to the open session of the 25th SACN meeting. External attendees were informed that they would have an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the meeting.
5. Apologies were received from Professor Sheila Bingham and Doctors Anita Thomas, Ann Prentice and Naresh Chada. No new declarations of interest were received.

Agenda Item 1 – Minutes of SACN meeting on 12 June 2008 (SACN/08/min/03)

6. Members were invited to comment on the minutes of the meeting held in Aberdeen on 12 June 2008 (SACN/08/min/03).
7. One minor editorial point was noted and the remainder of the minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting on 12 June 2008.

Action: Secretariat

8. It was noted that positive feedback and appreciation had been received from Scottish stakeholders, following the SACN meeting held in Aberdeen in June.

Matters Arising Action Check List (SACN/08/25)

SACN/08/11 – Nutrition Health Claims

9. The Committee were provided with an update on the latest position on nutrition and health claims and informed that of the current UK list of candidate claims, 780 are claims for botanical substances. They were also informed that EFSA has produced an opinion paper on nutrient profiles which are important in terms of approving claims on food. The Commission would be releasing a paper on nutrient profiles for consultation and Members were encouraged to submit comments.

SACN/07/05 – LIDNS report

10. This item was discussed under agenda item 3 (SACN/08/27).

SACN/07/29 – MRC strategic review of nutrition

11. It was confirmed that there was nothing to report at this moment.

SACN/08/23 – Human Genetics statement

12. SACN have produced a statement on genetic testing which has been published on the Committee website.
13. Dr Paul Haggarty reported back on a meeting of the Human Genetics Commission (HGC) he had attended on behalf of SACN. The meeting was held on 30th June 2008 to "explore voluntary regulation of direct-to-consumer genetic tests". There was a consensus at the meeting that companies who wish to supply direct genetic tests should be encouraged to work within a common framework of principles currently being developed by HGC. SACN's concerns over the complexity of the

issues involved in nutritionally related genetic testing, and the limitations of voluntary self-regulation, were raised at the meeting. Committee members agreed that SACN has an important role in providing advice on the utility of nutritionally related genetic tests and noted the particular importance of recent SACN advice on this subject in the context of voluntary regulation. A summary of the HGC position following this meeting is available on the HGC web site:

<http://www.hgc.gov.uk/Client/Content.asp?ContentId=816>

SACN/08/13 – COMS strategy

14. A stakeholder list had been drafted and would be circulated, to which Members may contribute to.

15. The COMS strategy was discussed and it was agreed to circulate a final document to make clear how SACN interfaces with various stakeholders with regard to the publication of SACN reports.

Action: Secretariat

SACN/08/16 – FSA update

16. An evaluation column has been added to the update table and this was discussed at agenda item 5.

SACN/08/17 – DH update

17. Department of Health confirmed that the review of the Healthy Start vouchers is ongoing and information is being gathered on how consumers are using these vouchers and who is using them.

AOB – Selenium report

18. The Secretariat plan to publish the final draft of the Selenium report on the SACN website by the end of the year.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 3 – LIDNS: SACN position paper (SACN/08/27) and fish sustainability

19. Mark Bush introduced the paper, which was a collation of views of SACN Members on the Low Income Diet and Nutrition Survey (LIDNS) report.
20. Several amendments were suggested to ensure that the paper accurately reflected the data in the report. It was noted, in particular, the importance of only commenting where there is available evidence and that any policy assumptions needed to be justified.
21. Other comments included:
- A footnote was requested to cover the issue of underreporting.
 - The word ‘poverty’ does not adequately explain the concept of deprivation, which is to do with more than just income. In addition, the ‘lowest 15% of material deprivation’ needs further clarification.
 - Clarity was needed on the impact factors which had been explored and which were likely to exert an important effect on the diet, i.e. food security, income or lifestyle.
 - A request for a list of the statistical analyses that had been carried out on the data by the contractor.
22. It was agreed that the paper should be redrafted in light of comments made and then circulated for agreement. Professor Anderson agreed to work with the Secretariat on the redraft.

Action: Secretariat

Fish sustainability

23. Mark Bush gave the Committee an update of the fish sustainability work being carried out by the FSA. A consultation on the dietary advice is due to be published before Christmas 2008 and the results would be circulated to the Committee in due course.

Agenda item 4 – Working Group updates

Sub Group on Maternal and Child Nutrition (SMCN)

24. Dr Tony Williams updated Members on the main discussions of SMCN at the Sub Group meeting on 17 September 2008; the ongoing report on Early Life Influences and Adult Health has been redrafted and a more advanced report will be taken to the Committee meeting in February 2009; and the Department of Health has contracted the Royal College of Paediatrics to plan implementation of the new growth charts, which are due to come into use early in 2009.

Energy Working Group

25. Professor Alan Jackson informed the Committee that the Energy Working Group last met on 29 September 2008, where substantial changes to the Energy report were proposed. Further meetings have been scheduled and the Energy report is due to be discussed at the main Committee meeting in February 2009.

Carbohydrate Working Group

26. The Carbohydrate Working Group last met on 26 September 2008 and Professor Ian Macdonald updated Members on progress. The HNR narrative synthesis on fibre is complete and tables from the report have been published on the SACN website. The work from this report will feed other aspects of the terms of reference as part of future reviews, for example for colonic health and cardiometabolic health. The Committee were informed that a systematic review on carbohydrate and cardiometabolic health would go out to tender in December 2008, with the review starting in May 2009.

Iron Working Group

27. The Iron Working Group met on 16 October 2008 to discuss the recent work on the Iron report, which will be brought to the SACN meeting in February 2009.

Thanks were given to the Secretariat for the work that had gone into revising the report.

ANANF

28. The draft ANANF report is being finalised by the joint ACNFP/SACN secretariat and will be discussed at the next meeting on 20 November 2008. The Sub Group plan to table a draft copy of the report at the SACN main meeting in June 2009.

Agenda item 5 – Government updates on nutrition related activities

FSA (SACN/08/28)

29. Dr Alison Tedstone gave an update of FSA activities highlighting in particular the review of analytical methods for assessing folate status and vitamin D in the population.

30. Members were asked for their views on the revised update format. Several comments were noted:

- Disappointment was expressed at the absence of evaluation in most reports.
- Evaluation was not relevant to some activities, particularly non-interventional activities, such as the National Food Debate in Scotland. The results of these would be presented separately.
- All interventional projects should include some sort of formal evaluation, although it was recognised that there might be resource issues. The benefit of carrying out research without appropriate evaluation was questioned by some Members. The Secretariat agreed to feedback on this point at the next meeting.

Action: Secretariat

DH (SACN/08/29)

31. Dr Sheila Reddy gave an update on DH activities highlighting in particular:

1. *WHO Growth Standards* – The new growth charts are expected to be in use by the middle of next year.
 2. *Food promotion to children interim review* – This has now been published and it was confirmed that the provision of free school meals will be extended to primary school children.
32. Two points about healthy start were raised for clarification:
- It was confirmed midwives offering advice on healthy eating would be part of the healthy start evaluation.

Devolved Health Departments (SACN/08/30)

Northern Ireland

33. Dr Naresh Chada was not in attendance to give an update on Northern Ireland activities. A written update was made available.

Wales

34. Maureen Howell gave an update on Welsh activities highlighting in particular the Food and Fitness Implementation Plan and the Appetite for Life scheme.
35. Dr Tony Williams requested further information on the data being collected in the breastfeeding data collection pilot scheme.

Action: Maureen Howell

Scotland

36. Dr Fiona Bissett gave an update on Scottish activities, highlighting in particular the free school meals pilot and the vitamin D workshop.

EFSA (SACN/08/31)

37. Written report only. No additional comments made.

AOB**Item 1 – NPC**

38. The Chair updated the Committee on the Nutrition Professions Confederation (NPC) and stated that the Terms of Reference had been tabled for the Committee for information only. The Committee were informed that the activities of this group would now be taken forward as a separate entity to SACN, with Professor Martin Wiseman of the Intercollegiate Group on Nutrition as Chair and Secretariat support being provided by the Nutrition Society.

Item 2 – Stakeholder list for SACN reports

39. As part of the communications strategy, Members had been provided with an initial list of those who receive SACN reports as standard. Members were asked to comment on this list and include any other key stakeholders and interested parties.

Action: Secretariat/Members

Item 3 – General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

40. Professor Peter Aggett attended the first meeting of GACS, which is chaired by Professor Colin Blakemore, on behalf of Professor Jackson, and gave a brief explanation of GACS' perceived purpose and the expected evolution and exploration of its remit and roles within the Agency.

Membership

41. Members queried the lack of a dental health expert on the Committee. The Chair explained that the Committee was not at full complement present, with several vacancies that would be advertised shortly.

Action: Secretariat

Next meeting

42. The next meeting is likely to be a 1.5 day meeting starting on 12th February 2009 at 2pm and all day on 13th February 2009.

Questions from external attendees

43. No questions were received from external observers.

44. The Chair thanked Members and other attendees for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Meeting close