

UKNHCC

UK Nutrition & Health Claims Committee

**Third Meeting
UKNHCC
8 October 2021
Microsoft Teams meeting**

Final Minutes

Meeting held in closed session

Attendees

Chair

Professor Susan Fairweather-Tait

Members

Dr Robert Boyle
Professor Judith Buttriss
Dr Francesca Crowe
Professor Alison Gallagher
Dr Darren Greenwood
Professor Marina Heinonen
Emeritus Professor Harry McArdle
Emeritus Professor Anders Sjödin

Secretariat (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities - OHID)

Ms Haley Bell
Dr Adrienne Cullum
Dr Jennifer Garry
Miss Celia Sabry-Grant

Official Observers

Ms Alison Black (Welsh Government)
Mr Chika Edeh (Food Standards Scotland)
Ms Debby Webb (Department of Health and Social Care)

Apologies

Ms Kerry Gribbin (Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland)

Agenda item 1 - Welcome, introductions and oral declaration of interests

1. The Chair welcomed members and observers to the third official meeting of the United Kingdom Nutrition and Health Claims Committee (UKNHCC), which was held virtually due to COVID-19 related advice to work from home and other travel restrictions.
2. Apologies were received from Kerry Gribbin, an Observer from Food Standards Agency, Northern Ireland.
3. The Chair reminded members that an updated version of the Register of Interests had been circulated (UKNHCC 21-11) in the meeting documentation. The Chair asked members to declare any changes to their declarations of interest since the last meeting.
4. Dr Darren Greenwood informed members that he is a Co-Investigator on a new grant from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) looking at long COVID-19.
5. Professor Susan Fairweather-Tait informed members that she participated in a two-day workshop on data methodologies for establishing tolerable upper intake levels for vitamins and minerals with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).
6. Dr Robert Boyle informed members of his membership of the Baby Feeding Law Group and this work on providing expert comment on the draft Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) Guidance note on formula claims. Dr Boyle also informed members that he is a Co-Investigator on a grant from the NIHR looking at food allergy testing in children and eczema. Dr Boyle also informed members of an editorial he wrote recently related to hydrolysed infant formula.
7. Members were informed that the secretariat will make the changes to the Register of Interests published on gov.uk following the meeting.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of previous meeting for agreement (UKNHCC 21-12)

8. Members were invited to comment on the draft minutes from the second UKNHCC meeting held on 16 July 2021 (UKNHCC 21-12).
9. A member raised a query on paragraph 9 amend 'potential work on developing a web application' to 'work on developing a potential web application'.

10. Members were reminded that the draft minutes were currently published on the UKNHCC website and that the final version would be published subject to the agreed amendment.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 3 - Matters arising (UKNHCC 21-13, SACN 21-16)

11. The secretariat summarised the matters arising and actions taken from the previous meetings.
12. The secretariat informed members that a meeting had taken place between UKNHCC and the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) Chairs and secretariat on 9 September.
13. The secretariat informed members that it was agreed the Chair as an existing ACNFP member would provide links to both UKNHCC and the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) and provide updates via the SACN Government Update meeting paper.
14. Members were informed that the secretariat would attend ACNFP meetings when appropriate to observe relevant discussions.
15. The Chair invited Official Observers to provide updates in addition to the circulated SACN Government Update meeting paper (SACN 21-16). No further updates were provided, all Official Observers thanked the Committee for their consideration of the first health claim application and publication of the Scientific Opinion.
16. Members were informed that the Diet, Obesity and Physical Activity (DOPA) team (which includes the UKNHCC Secretariat) within the Health Improvement Directorate at Public Health England (PHE) moved to the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), within DHSC on 1 October 2021. Members were informed that OHID is based in DHSC Victoria Street offices in London.
17. Members were informed that following the publication of the first UKNHCC Scientific Opinion on 1 September 2021, no comments or feedback had been received to date. Members were informed that the 30-day period to submit comments ended on 1 October 2021. It was noted that the four-nation nutrition group (risk management meeting) have until 1 November 2021 to make the risk management decision on whether to authorise the claim or not.
18. The secretariat summarised feedback on the Scientific Opinion from members, Official Observers and themselves.

19. Members discussed and reflected back on the process for the first Scientific Opinion.
20. Members discussed and agreed to creating a set of statements on reasons why they consider a study as pertinent or not in line with current guidance to applicants. The secretariat agreed to draft a list of statements and circulate to members for comment.

Action: Secretariat

21. Members discussed and agreed that it would be useful to incorporate the set of statements into the documentation for completing assessments to help with consistency when reviewing papers. The secretariat agreed to propose an approach to do this following agreement on the set of statements.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 4 – UKNHCC process – follow-up

22. The secretariat followed-up on points raised at the last meeting regarding what is currently required within the UKNHCC application form. Members agreed to amend the application form to include details for applicants on searching trial registries and include a statement regarding non-registered studies. Members agreed to submit wording to the secretariat to redraft the UKNHCC application form.

Action: Members and secretariat

23. The secretariat provided members with an update from the SACN Subgroup on framework and methods for evidence evaluation. Members were informed that the Subgroup has met twice and the next meeting will be held on 1 November 2021. Discussions are ongoing for the consideration of approaches to grading evidence and statistics. Members were informed the Subgroup is Chaired by Professor Julie Lovegrove and the UKNHCC secretariat attends meetings to observe.

Agenda item 4 – UKNHCC process – Risk of Bias (RoB) follow-up

24. The Chair thanked members for reviewing the RoB material circulated in advance of the meeting. Members discussed the importance of evaluating RoB. The secretariat provided an overview of the task members were asked to complete in advance of this meeting.
25. Members shared and discussed feedback on the process for completing the Cochrane RoB tool 2 for randomised trials template using the guidance and crib

sheet documents as an aid. Each of the five domains were discussed in detail while assessing RoB on two studies. Members were invited to raise questions.

26. The secretariat agreed to collate questions and answers, for circulation after the meeting.

Action: Secretariat

27. The secretariat raised points for discussion on the draft UKNHCC Framework for Evaluation of Evidence Submitted for the Substantiation of Nutrition and Health Claims. The Committee were invited to comment on integrating RoB assessment. The secretariat agreed to circulate an updated version of the framework for review.

Action: Members and secretariat

Agenda item 5 – AOB

28. The secretariat reminded members that the next Committee meeting would be held virtually on 18 November 2021. Members agreed to start the meeting at 9.15am.
29. Members and secretariat discussed the feasibility of having face to face meetings in 2022.
30. The Chair closed the meeting, thanking the secretariat and Committee for participating in the meeting remotely.

Meeting close