

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Executive Summary

1. This paper introduces the Advisory Committee on Research (ACR) Annual Report 2005, highlighting the ACR's work in 2005 and its provisional work programme for 2006.
2. This paper is for information. The Board is invited to **note** the attached "Advisory Committee on Research Report 2005" and in particular the highlights of the ACR's work over the last year (paragraph 4).

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Issue

1. This paper introduces the Advisory Committee on Research (ACR) Annual Report 2005, highlighting the ACR's work in 2005 and its provisional work programme for 2006. The Report also sets out the ACR's terms of reference and reporting procedures and provides biographies of its members.

The Advisory Committee on Research (ACR)

2. The Advisory Committee on Research (ACR) was established in 2002. It consists of a Chairperson and up to 11 Members, with a wide range of skills and expertise to reflect the spectrum of the Agency's research and survey activities. It operates under a Code of Practice, holds open meetings and publishes its minutes and papers, including a Register of Members' interests, on the Agency's web-site. The attached "Report of the Food Standards Agency's Advisory Committee on Research 2004" provides a formal record of the ACR and its activities over that period.

Highlights of the ACR's work during 2004

3. The Report focuses on the ACR's three formal meeting, although the Committee has also done a substantial amount of work in *ad hoc* working groups and by correspondence. The progress the ACR has made over the last year is listed in the Executive summary and detailed in the main body of the Report.
4. In 2005 the ACR has:
 - overseen the production of a draft Agency Science Strategy 2005-10 issued for public consultation in summer 2005, and advised on the analysis and proposed response to the comments received in the consultation;
 - continued its work on possible approaches to prioritising Agency research;
 - advised on how to develop the dissemination of Agency research;
 - advised on how the business cases for 2 proposed new research and survey programmes might be improved;
 - monitored recommendations on research from expert groups advising the Agency;

- overseen the second round awards under the Agency's Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme and advised on award areas for 2006;
- advised on Agency priorities for EU Framework Programme 7; and
- advised on the priority within the Agency's research portfolio of the UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey programme.

Dissemination of the Report

5. The Agency's Research Co-ordination Unit (RCU) is overseeing the distribution of the Report to senior Agency staff, the secretariats of Agency advisory committees and working parties and other Government and research stakeholders. The Report will also be published on the Agency's web-site.

Board Action Required

6. The Board is invited to:
 - **note** the attached "Advisory Committee on Research Report 2005" and in particular the highlights of the ACR's work over the last year (paragraph 4).