CCP Sandbox Progress Report

FSA BC 25/09/06 - Report by: Tom Vincent, Deputy Director, Innovation Policy

1. Summary

1.1 This paper outlines the progress of the Cell-Cultivated Products (CCP) sandbox during its first six-month sprint (March – August 2025) and sets out the high-level delivery plan for the next sprint (September 2025 – February 2026).

1.2 We invite the Committee to comment on progress to date and the forward delivery plan.

2. Overview

2.1 The Sandbox is a two-year programme sponsored by the Department of Science Innovation and Technology (DSIT) that commenced in March 2025 and is designed to facilitate extensive dialogue with industry to inform regulatory actions that are proportionate to the risks of these products, whilst facilitating innovation. The FSA and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) are working with a selected group of participants from business, academia and industry associations to deliver the following outcomes agreed with DSIT:

- **Regulatory approvals**: the FSA/FSS has a greater understanding about CCP hazards and production processes, leading to swifter, better-informed risk assessments and recommendations to ministers than are currently possible, reaching a typical timeframe for a routine, non-complex application of approximately 2.5 years.

- **Industry confidence**: the CCP industry has a much clearer understanding of what information they need to provide in their applications and how long this will take, reducing delays and improving investor confidence in the ability of CCP applicants to meet required regulatory standards. Consequently, companies have more confidence in choosing the UK as the place to grow their business and submit CCP applications.

2.2 Although these outcomes are designed to be delivered by the end of the Programme, the following progress has been made to date:

2.3 Regulatory approvals: we are on track to meet our aim to complete risk assessments for two cultivated cell-based product (CCP) applications by the end of the programme in February 2027. Two applications have completed the validation stage in June 2025, confirming that the application contains all the necessary information and meets the required standards to proceed to formal risk assessment, where scientific experts will evaluate the safety of the products based on the submitted data.

2.4 The sandbox risk assessment team is now fully resourced (as of May 2025), and the allocation of dedicated resources to the CCP sandbox and the enhanced knowledge we are

developing have significantly enhanced our ability to assess applications. As the team members continue to build experience in assessing CCP applications, we anticipate further improvement in pace and efficiency across future assessments.

2.5 Whilst the risk assessment process is progressing, it is dependent on the development of guidance on hazards and their mitigation, which risk assessors and the independent Scientific Advisory Committee will use to assess dossiers. We are gathering the information needed to create this guidance through sandbox workshops.

2.6 Industry confidence: To measure whether business and industry confidence has improved as a result of the work of the sandbox, we are issuing six-monthly surveys to (a)?CCP companies and (b) investors in CCP companies. Both surveys were initially issued in April 2025 to obtain a baseline understanding at the start of the programme.

2.7 The baseline data indicates there is a desire for further clarity on data requirements and on the regulatory process, particularly around timescales to authorisation. From the CCP company survey, obtaining a market authorisation approval was the factor most likely to increase investor confidence. From the investor survey, the two most important factors that would impact on investor confidence in CCPs were 1) “better understanding of the regulatory path for all parties and clearer path to approval” and 2) “company engagement with the FSA”.

2.8 These findings indicate that the programme’s objectives (i.e. to publish guidance on the technical data requirements for applicants, and to provide clarity on the regulatory process) are aligned to industry requirements and that the work of the sandbox is likely to positively impact investor confidence. It also suggests that the business support service set up as part of the programme, that enables early engagement with the FSA, will be effective in increasing investor confidence.

2.9 Feedback from companies in the sandbox also supports the positive tone of the work of the FSA/FSS in this space, with participant companies quoted in a recent article as stating “…the regulatory Sandbox is already making an impact on attracting innovative companies like ours to the UK market” and “The Sandbox has already proven to be a major asset, giving us a much clearer view of the FSA’s expectations and how best to prepare our dossier”. This demonstrates the sandbox’s effectiveness in encouraging regulatory readiness and accelerating innovation.

3. Summary of key successes in Sprint 1

3.1 Annex A outlines in detail the successes the programme has made in achieving the agreed deliverables for the first sprint between March and August 2025. A summary of these successes is described below.

3.2 ACNFP-CCP subgroup: The ACNFP-CCP subgroup has been established to ensure we have the requisite scientific expertise available to underpin our regulatory approach to CCPs. To date, this has included bringing in subject experts on allergenicity, nutrition, novel production processes and molecular cellular biology. Expert advice on CCPs will inform the development of hazard guidance for food businesses, the first section of this will focus on allergenicity and nutrition. There was a meeting in June to discuss allergenic risks and a proposed tiered assessment, and the Committee will provide advice on cell line and production hazard guidance at the meeting in August.

3.3 Participant workshops: We have conducted four thematic workshops involving participants from industry and academia. As a result, we have a more detailed understanding of how CCPs are produced and of the food safety considerations that will apply throughout the production process. The workshop themes have covered hygiene and regulation; production methods, allergens and nutrition; labelling; and toxicological hazards and growth media.

3.4 Establishment of the CGN and ANIR: We have also created a cross-government network (CGN) and an advisory network of international regulators (ANIR). This has enabled us to develop a holistic approach to policy making and to broaden our evidence base across each of the themes of the workshops. We have used these networks to discuss cross-cutting regulatory issues concerning CCPs on a national basis, ensuring our policy approaches will be acceptable to the four nations and aligned across UK government. We have also learnt from the regulatory experiences of our international partners and have shared insights from the sandbox programme with them, leading to the identification of common challenges and possible solutions, for example around when a CCP becomes food and the regulations in different jurisdictions start to apply, the definition of a “batch”, and how CCPs are labelled in different countries.

3.5 Bespoke regulatory guidance: Information from each of the sources mentioned above is being used to develop guidance on topics that we know industry and investors require clarity on. We have written draft guidance on allergenicity and nutrition, which was reviewed by the ACNFP sub-group; on the status of CCPs within existing regulatory frameworks for meat and products of animal origin, and on novel foods tastings. We intend to publish these during sprint 2.

3.6 Business Support Service: In June, we launched the pilot online Business Support Service, and this has already been used by industry as a method of engaging with the FSA early in the application process to ensure that submitted applications meet the high standards required for risk assessment. We have received applications for support from organisations who are both part of the sandbox, as well as wider industry.

3.7 Dedicated webpage for the CCP Sandbox: The FSA is committed to transparency and has launched a webpage (https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/cell-cultivated-products) designed to provide accessible information to the public about CCPs and the work of the sandbox programme. This page includes information on what a CCP is, the role the FSA and FSS will play in their regulation, alongside updates on the sandbox programme including lay summaries of topics discussed in our industry workshops. This page will be regularly updated as the programme progresses.

4. Risk assessment of CCP applications during Sprint 1

4.1 One of the KPIs for the programme agreed with DSIT is the completion of at least two CCP risk assessments within the sandbox period. Robust governance arrangements are in place to ensure the independence of the risk assessment process with a ‘firewall’ between activities conducted by the sandbox, and decisions on the progress of individual applications. Full details of the governance arrangements were set out in the March 2025 update paper to the Business Committee, in summary:

- Quality assurance and sign-off on decisions to progress applications will be made independently of the sandbox team through the existing FSA Risk Assessment Unit and our independent Scientific Advisory Committees, with:??

- Decisions relating to risk assessments and the progression of applications for consideration by the ACNFP sit with the existing Head of Novel Foods Risk Assessment, who is not part of the sandbox programme.?

- Decisions relating to the scientific assessment of CCP applications sitting with the existing, independent Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP).??

4.2 The programme has a crucial role in tracking and scrutinising progress being made on individual CCP applications, to ensure we meet our KPIs (outlined below). The table below updates on progress against the FSA's wider deliverables for CCP risk assessments during Sprint 1, enabled by the activities of the sandbox:

Risk assessment deliverables (March 2025 – August 2025)
April 2025: Validation of at least two CCP applications will be completed by April, provided applicants respond appropriately to outstanding RFIs. **DELIVERED** June 2025
July 2025: Publication of report summarising the discussion of key hazards associated with CCPs from the open session of ACNFP held in February. This report will outline the key themes and questions that were raised in the open session and how these will be explored in the sandbox programme of work. Due to be **DELIVERED** September 2025

4.3 Application status update. Other CCP applications are progressing through the system. We will be able to provide a detailed outline to the Committee of the timeline of the assessment of the applications upon request.

4.4 Whilst we are dependent on food businesses to submit applications for market authorisation and respond robustly to our requests for further information (RFIs), we have forward planning in place to ensure there is sufficient time for the independent Scientific Advisory Committee who are responsible for the risk assessments, to review finalised applications and make an assessment as to their safety.

5. Forward look for Sprint 2

5.1 We are satisfied with the pace of delivery during the first sprint of activity. Sandbox participants have openly shared insights and views with us, which has put us in a good position for being able to start generating regulatory policy and hazard management guidance positions. However, maintaining this pace of work in future sprints is critically dependent on information continuing to be shared from participants and delivery partners outside of the FSA. There is a risk that if this decreases, the progress of the programme will slow. We have managed this risk so far, but it requires constant attention to ensure ongoing information sharing and utilisation of that information as we develop guidance, and as applications progress through the process.

5.2 We will continue to manage the work as an agile programme, composed of a series of six-month sprints. The plan for what we intend to deliver in the next six months (September 2025 – February 2026) is set out in **Annex B**, and the key highlights of the second sprint of the programme will include:

5.3 Participant workshops: We will hold further industry workshops from October 2025 to February 2026, on topics including regulatory approvals, microbiological hazards, and import/export of CCPs. We will also re-visit previously discussed topics around hygiene, production and toxicological hazards. This will allow us to us to address remaining questions, such as when legislation applies in the production process, and further refine our policy positions on these topics, which will help finalise corresponding guidance.

5.4 Bespoke guidance: We are aiming to publish guidance on taste trials for novel foods by October 2025, this will provide improved clarity to companies wishing to conduct taste trials in the UK prior to obtaining regulatory approval. In December 2025 we aim to publish guidance on the status of CCPs within existing regulatory frameworks for meat and products of animal origin, and guidance on allergenicity and nutrition hazards. Publication of these guidance documents will meet our commitment to the Regulation for Growth Action Plan to publish the first wave of

guidance by the end of the calendar year.

6. Assurance & Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

6.1 A number of key performance indicators (KPIs) were agreed with DSIT at the outset of the programme. We have put in place bespoke assurance tools that are used to track performance against each of the KPIs. Details of the KPIs and assurance tools were provided in the March 2025 Business Committee paper.

6.2 The assurance tools are reviewed on a six-weekly basis by the Sandbox Programme Board (which includes senior DSIT representation), and any necessary remedial action taken. The Programme Board are currently content that the work is on track. A copy of the assurance tools can be provided to Business Committee if useful.

7. Risks

7.1 There is a risk that CCP businesses products are not sufficiently advanced, or have insufficient data regarding hazard management, to complete the risk assessment stage, leading to the FSA not being able to deliver to the two-year timetable for two finalised risk assessments. The launch of the Business Support Service is helping to minimise this risk. As with other novel foods, we are actively tracking all CCP applications in the system to identify and tackle potential blockers early, to reduce the risk of not delivering these risk assessments within the agreed timeframe, whilst ensuring the risk assessment remains robust and assures food safety and protects consumer interests.

7.2 This May, HMG and the EU agreed to work towards a Common Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement, with the view toward reducing barriers to the movement of agri-food products between the UK and the EU. Exactly what will fall under this agreement is subject to negotiations between HMG and the EU later this year, but the GB market authorisation service and how far it will align with the EU's market authorisation service will be included in the discussions.

7.3 The team is conscious of ongoing SPS negotiations and is preparing for different outcomes. The team has informed all sandbox participants of the FSA's intention to continue to support innovation through the regulatory sandbox as these negotiations continue, and we will advise participants as soon as possible should there be any requirement to significantly alter the course of the programme.

8. Next steps

8.1 We will continue to provide updates on progress and any issues arising to the FSA Chair and Deputy Chair via three-monthly check point meetings. We will provide a further update to the Business Committee in six months' time.

8.2 We ask the Committee to comment on progress to date and the high-level delivery plan going forward.

Annex A - Review of sprint 1

The agreed deliverables for the first sprint between March 2025 and August 2025 for each of the key workstreams are set out below. *All areas were delivered.*

Workstream & deliverables	Update
Workstream: Running ACNFP sub-group **Deliverables:** **March 2025:** Establishing ACNFP CCP sub-group, identifying relevant external expertise and managing conflicts of interest ahead of the first sub-group meeting. Includes publication of the terms of reference for the sub-group. **DELIVERED**	The sub-group provides expert advice to the FSA, informing the development of guidance of how to mitigate hazards associated with CCPs. The subgroup is made up from a core of three members from the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods (ACNFP) and also engages additional external expertise to advise on set topics. The first sub-group session focussed on the development of scientific guidance for allergenicity and nutrition management, exploring potential allergenic risks associated with CCPs, particularly those derived from mammalian cells. Key considerations included the presence of residual cell culture components (e.g. growth media), the use of scaffolds containing known and unknown allergens, and the potential impact of genetic drift. The group also discussed the emergence of novel allergens and the possibility of overexposure to existing ones. A tiered approach to allergenicity assessment was proposed, broadly aligning with the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) established framework for novel foods, although some adaptations may be made to reflect the specific context of CCPs. Insights from these discussions will directly inform the content of guidance produced by the sandbox to advise CCP producers on the evidence they need to provide that their products are safe. The sub-group also examined the potential implications of incorporating CCPs into the diet. Discussions considered the potential nutritional impact of CCPs, particularly in scenarios where they may partially or fully replace conventional foods. The focus was on ensuring that any such transition does not compromise nutritional adequacy or public health. Additionally, the importance of defining clear batch specifications and conducting comparative analyses with traditional meat products was also highlighted. A hypothetical case study was used to simulate a CCP application, enabling the group to provide practical input into the development of nutrition guidance.
June 2025: First meeting of the ACNFP sub-group to discuss nutrition and allergenicity. **DELIVERED**	
August 2025: Second meeting of the ACNFP sub-group to discuss on CCP cell-line and production hazards. **DELIVERED**	
Workstream: participant workshops **Deliverables:** **March 2025**: The programme launch event, attended by sandbox participants, will serve to introduce the role of the FSA, set the wider vision for the programme, and include preliminary information regarding the thematic workshops that will be conducted **DELIVERED**	Themed workshops were run with the sandbox participants to explore regulatory policy issues across a number of topics. The insights gained will continue to be used to develop the FSA's policy approach to CCP regulation and to develop corresponding guidance. Hygiene and Regulations: discussions focussed on how CCPs should be classified (e.g. as meat, products of animal origin, or something else) and the implications that would arise from such classification. The session also included discussions on the existing guidance on conducting human taste trials for novel foods to inform an updated version, which we anticipate will be published by October 2025. Production Methods, Allergens and Nutrition: participants provided the sandbox team with details about the entire production process, from sourcing the cells and growing them in a controlled environment, to harvesting them and creating the final food product. The participants explained what materials, ingredients and equipment they use, what processes they put in place and how they make sure the final product is safe to eat. This included a discussion on how the presence of allergens is managed by the producers, the intended uses and how the nutritional make-up compares to that of traditional products of animal origin. Labelling: participants shared insights around terms like "cell-cultivated" or "cell-cultured", and that these may be more familiar or acceptable to the public than other terminology. Discussions also highlighted considerations around allergen and nutritional labelling, particularly how to address ingredients used during production that may not be present in the final product. Toxicological hazards and growth media: This workshop focussed on (1) the composition of growth media and associated quality control measures, and (2)?toxicological considerations related to both the components used during production and the cellular by-products generated. Participants provided the sandbox team with their current processes for establishing a complete safety profile for components of toxicological interest in the growth media or produced during production, and their persistence in the final product. These approaches will be tested with the ACNFP sub-group in October 2025.
April 2025: This workshop will focus on issues relating to hygiene (in relation to requirements for manufacturing premises) and relevant regulations, and will include discussions on POAO legislation, CCP terminology, and regulatory gaps. **DELIVERED**	
May 2025: This workshop will focus on CCP production and will include a discussion of hazards in relation to how CCPs are made (e.g. the selection of cell-lines, use of different growth medias, and allergenicity). **DELIVERED**	
June 2025: This workshop will focus on the issue of labelling and will include a discussion of questions relating to labelling requirements for CCPs (e.g. terminology and the inclusion of scientific, nutritional, and allergen information). **DELIVERED**	
July 2025: This workshop will focus on toxicological (chemical) hazards within the CCP production process, including the potential for production scale-up (i.e. producing CCPs on a mass scale) to increase the presence of harmful chemicals in the final product. **DELIVERED** No workshop in August due to summer break.	

Workstream & deliverables	Update
Workstream: bespoke guidance **Deliverables:** **March – August 2025**: Initial scoping of priority areas for guidance production based on participant workshops and ongoing risk assessments, ahead of first guidance publication by the end of 2025 (Sprint 2) **DELIVERED** **August 2025**: Production of draft guidance on the status of CCPs within existing regulatory frameworks for meat and products of animal origin, ahead of publication in Sprint 2 **DELIVERED** **August 2025**: Draft guidance on allergenicity and nutrition hazards, ahead of publication in Sprint?2 **DELIVERED**	Guidance will be published in three waves during the programme, with the first wave planned by the end of 2025. This is planned to include: 1. confirmation of the FSA/FSS policy position on the classification of CCPs, which will include clarification of the implications for stakeholders. This guidance is currently being drafted and following legal review, the plan is to publish the guidance in December 2025. 2. Allergenicity and Nutrition Guidance, which has been drafted and is undergoing internal review. The draft guidance will be reviewed by the ACNFP Committee in Autumn. Following final revisions, we plan to publish the guidance in December 2025.
Workstream: cross-government network **Deliverables:** **March 2025:** Agree terms of reference for the network and recruit members. **DELIVERED** **April 2025**: Hold first meeting focused on agreeing the forward plan for the network, and how it its activities relate to the outputs of the participant workshops. Likely meetings in May 2025 covering hygiene and CCP production, and July 2025 covering labelling and toxicological hazards. **DELIVERED**	The Cross-Government Network comprises key Government organisations, either with an interest in the field of CCPs or holding overlapping policy responsibility. This forum facilitates teachings on the CCP sector and Novel Foods legislation and testing of the Sandbox policy approach. Harnessing expertise in wider legislative responsibilities from other Government Departments has identified issues where we are in ongoing discussions on impacts and resolution. Linking in with our four-nation working approach, we have collated information on Ministerial notification procedures from relevant CGN members across the nations so that we may align timings on tasks requiring Ministerial briefing and/or decisions. Given the devolved nature of labelling policy across the four nations, we are leveraging our Cross-Government Network to build consensus and to ensure coherence in our approach to CCP labelling, drawing on a wide range of cross government and devolved administration expertise to reach agreed policy positions.
Workstream: International Regulators Network **Deliverables**: March 2025: Agree terms of reference for the network and recruit members. **DELIVERED** **May 2025**: Hold first meeting focused on agreeing the forward plan for the network, priorities of different members, and how its activities relate to the outputs of the participant workshops. Likely meeting in **August 2025** covering microbiological hazards, CCP production and hygiene. **DELIVERED**	The network consists of international regulators who have already conducted assessments of CCP applications or who are advanced in their preparations to receive them. We have hosted three meetings of the ANIR, in May, June and August 2025, exceeding the planned delivery schedule outlined in March. Discussions have focussed on the sandbox team sharing learning and insights from industry discussions and exploring how other regulators have tackled the issues we are identifying as we develop our framework. For example, while there is consensus that labels for consumers must not be misleading, discussions around labelling explored which regulators were mandating specific terms on CCP labels and why, alongside those who took a more flexible approach and how this is managed from a regulatory perspective. The ANIR have also discussed classification of CCPs; while not every jurisdiction has the same classifications as the UK, similar challenges are being tackled internationally, for example, at what point the cells are considered a food product and therefore the legislation would start to apply. Insights from these regulators is helping the sandbox team to consider our own position and implications arising. At the August session of ANIR, we will feedback findings from the participant workshop on toxicology, and undertake a forward look ahead to the September participant workshop on microbiological hazards.
Workstream: Business Support Service **Deliverables**: **March 2025**: Agree scope of business support service **DELIVERED June 2025** **April 2025**: Launch new business support service, including dedicated landing page on FSA website. **DELIVERED June 2025**	This initiative was launched in June 2025. The service is designed to assist businesses preparing to submit applications for cell-cultivated products (CCPs) to the UK market authorisation process. It provides tailored support throughout the lifecycle of an application, offering both pre- and post-submission guidance. Depending on the nature of the applicant's enquiry, we can offer either written advice or a one-to-one meeting. The delivery of the BSS will be kept under review to ensure it remains effective and sustainable alongside other key workstreams. Insights and lessons learned from this initiative will inform the potential expansion of similar support services across the wider market authorisation landscape. In July, we received our first business support request from a company intending to submit a CCP application within a year, seeking specific advice on questions relating to their application. Another company has also publicly stated that "*…we expect to make use of the pre-application support meetings to ensure our eventual submission is as complete as it can be*".

Workstream & deliverables	Update
Workstream: wider engagement **Deliverables**: **April 2025**: Publish a dedicated page on www.food.gov.uk for the CCP sandbox, where we will post updates on the workshops, explainers on CCPs and their regulation, updates/news, video explainers and the bespoke guidance as it is agreed. **DELIVERED June 2025**	The FSA and FSS have each launched dedicated information on their respective websites. This includes: 1. A business facing page, with information on the regulatory framework and business support service. This will be where we publish our bespoke guidance for industry. (https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/cell-cultivated-products) 2. A public facing page, with accessible information for the public and consumer interest groups to obtain factual and impartial information on what CCPs are and what the Sandbox programme is doing to develop its regulatory approach for these products. This includes summaries of each industry workshop to support transparency of our approach. (https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/cell-cultivated-products) 3. The site will be routinely updated as the programme continues and will both optimise the transparency of the sandbox and help to reduce any traction of misinformation and disinformation, thereby supporting the wider aim of building consumer trust in approved CCPs and the FSA as a regulator. 4. The programme team is using existing resources to maintain a broad and balanced evidence base for policy making. It will continue to utilise the FSA's consumer insights tracker to gather information on consumer views of CCPs throughout the programme and has engaged with external academic research groups to enable consumer views of CCPs and policy questions relating to consumer interests to be explored at citizen forums and in other research that can improve the quality of policy making in this area. 5. We published an update in the most recent issue of the FSA's Market Authorisations newsletter and will contribute routinely via this newsletter to provide updates on the work of the sandbox to a broad audience. 6. Video explainers about CCPs and their regulation are kept under review to ensure the information remains relevant and accurate as we learn more from industry and scientific research.
April 2025: Agree cadence and forward look for routine updates. **DELIVERED**	
April 2025: publish updates on our work in the regulatory sandbox in the Market Authorisations newsletter which is published on a two-monthly basis. **DELIVERED July 2025**	
Workstream: industry monitoring **Deliverables**: **April 2025: Undertake baseline industry survey** to understand how the work of the sandbox is impacting the industry. The survey will be repeated every six months to track progress. **DELIVERED**	The data we will gather through our business and industry surveys will allow us to understand how the work of the sandbox is impacting industry and enable the team to make adjustments to the delivery plan if intelligence deems this necessary. The results from these tracking surveys are reviewed by the Programme Board, and will be included in the final CCP sandbox Review Report upon completion of the programme in 2027
April 2025: Undertake baseline investor survey to understand how the work of the sandbox is influencing investor confidence in the UK CCP market. The survey will be repeated every six months to track progress. **DELIVERED**	
Workstream: governance **Deliverables**: **March 2025**: Business Committee (six monthly) **DELIVERED**	The Programme Board consisting of FSA, FSS and DSIT senior officials is well established and actively working through delivery issues from the Programme. The Programme Board meets every six weeks to review delivery progress, manage any issues arising, provide steers and relevant decision-making. The Programme also continues to provide quarterly progress updates to EMT in their role as change Portfolio Board, and detailed checkpoint meetings with the Chief Executive Officer, and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the FSA Board are also held quarterly.
April 2025: Programme Board meeting 1 (inc. DSIT, six weekly) **DELIVERED**	
May 2025: Portfolio Board (quarterly) **DELIVERED**	
April & July 2025: CEO/Chair checkpoint (quarterly) **DELIVERED** May and August 2025	

Annex B - Planned deliverables for sprint 2

Workstream	**Planned deliverables:** **Sprint 2: September 2025 - February 2026**
Running the ACNFP Subgroup	September 2025: Main ACNFP review of **nutrition and allergenicity** guidance in preparation for publication October 2025: ACNFP sub-group undertakes first review of guidance for the management of **toxicological hazards and growth media composition** January 2026: ACNFP sub-group undertakes final review of proposed guidance positions regarding the management of **cell line identity, production processes and microbiological hazards**
Participant Workshops	October 2025: This workshop will explore **regulatory approvals** including how conditional approvals might work for CCPs. November 2025: This workshop will combine elements of CCP **hygiene and production**, and **microbiological hazards**, to facilitate further discussions including of hazards in relation to how CCPs are made (e.g. the selection of cell-lines, use of different growth medias, and allergenicity). December 2025: This workshop will begin to explore industry experiences in relation to **import and export** of CCPs. January 2026: No workshops during this month. (progress review and planning period) February 2026: This follow-up workshop on **toxicological (chemical) hazards** will include further discussions of issues relating to production scale-up and the presence of harmful chemicals in the final product
Bespoke Guidance	October 2025: Publication of guidance on conducting **taste trials** for CCPs December 2025: Publication of guidance on **status of CCPs** within existing regulatory frameworks for meat and products of animal origin December 2025: Publication of guidance on **allergenicity and nutrition hazards** December 2025: Production of draft guidance on **cell line identity, production processes and microbiological hazards** ahead of publication in Sprint 3
Cross-Government Network	October 2025: meeting revisiting **hygiene, microbiological hazards and CCP production**, and forward look towards **regulatory approval** and **import/export of CCPs** November 2025: meeting sharing further learning on **regulatory approvals, hygiene, production** and **microbiological hazards**, and forward look towards **toxicological hazards** of CCPs February 2026: meeting sharing learning on **import/export** and **toxicological hazards**
Advisory Network of International Regulators	November 2025: meeting sharing learning about **regulatory approvals, hygiene, production** and **microbiological hazards**, and forward look towards **import/export** January/February 2026: meeting sharing learning about **import/export** and forward look towards further discussions on **toxicological hazards**
Business Support	Ongoing delivery of the service A review of the service will be conducted in Sprint 3
Wider Sector Engagement	December 2025: External communications to accompany publication of guidance Ongoing: publication of summaries of each industry workshop to support transparency of our approach

Workstream	**Planned deliverables:** **Sprint 2: September 2025 - February 2026**
Industry Monitoring	October 2025: repeat survey to understand how the work of the sandbox is **impacting industry** October 2025: repeat survey to understand how the work of the sandbox is **influencing investor confidence** in the UK CCP market The results from these tracking surveys will be reviewed by the Programme Board.