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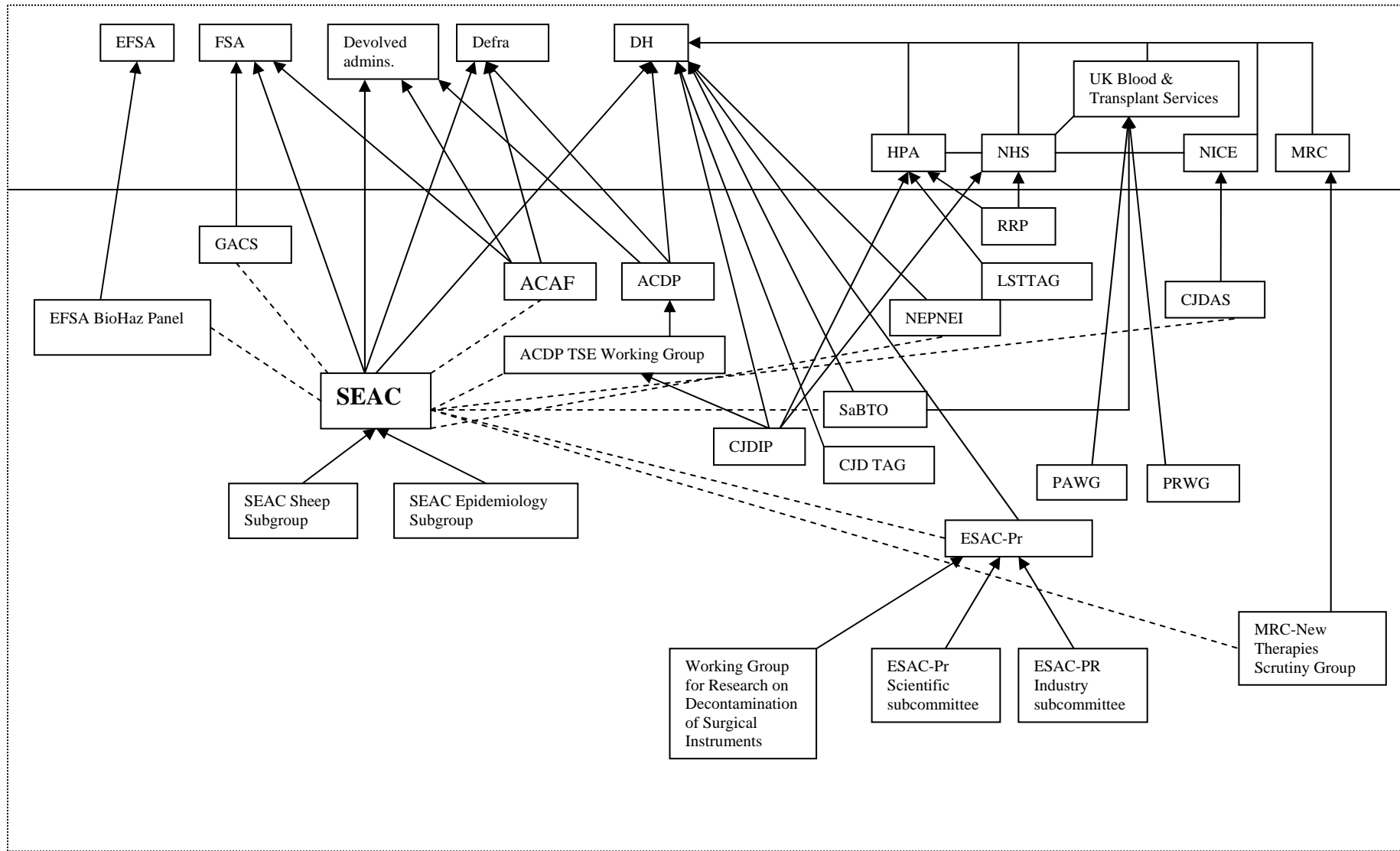
Wiring Diagram showing relationships between SEAC and other committees and expert groups that provide advice relating to TSEs to government

Key

Arrows represent formal reporting lines.

Broken lines represent lines of communication (formal and informal) with SEAC for example, these could comprise cross-membership of committees, regular attendance of members of one committee as observers at the meetings of another committee, regular contact between secretariats.

Groups marked by * have been disbanded.



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Abbreviations and further information on the committees / expert groups

SEAC – Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee.

Provides scientific analyses and advice on the risk assessment of prion diseases to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Department of Health (DH), Food Standards Agency (FSA), Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Executive.

<http://www.seac.gov.uk/>

SEAC Sheep Subgroup.

Reviews new research findings on sheep TSEs and assesses the scientific implications of these results for the National Scrapie Plan. Reports to SEAC.

<http://www.seac.gov.uk/>

SEAC Epidemiology Subgroup.

Reports to SEAC on the significance of emerging and published epidemiological data about human and animal TSEs, and on such specific epidemiological questions as SEAC refers to it for advice.

<http://www.seac.gov.uk/>

EFSA BioHaz Panel – European Food Safety Authority Panel on Biological Hazards.

Provides independent scientific advice on biological hazards in relation to food safety and food-borne diseases, including TSEs. Reports to EFSA.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificPanels/efsa_locale-1178620753812_BIOHAZ.htm

GACS – General Advisory Committee on Science.

Support the FSA's Chief Scientist by providing independent challenge and advice to the Chief Scientist and the Agency Board on the Agency's governance and use of science, which includes prion diseases.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/science/ouradvisors/gacs/>

ACAF – Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs.

Provides advice on the safety and use of animal feeds and feeding practices, with particular emphasis on protecting human health and with reference to new technical developments and new feed materials to Defra, FSA, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Executive.

<http://acaf.food.gov.uk/>

ACDP – Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens.

Advises the Health and Safety Executive, and Ministers for DH and Defra and their counterparts under devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as required, on all aspects of hazards and risks to workers and others from exposure to pathogens.

<http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/acdp/index.htm>

ACDP TSE Working Group.

Provides practical, scientifically based advice on the management of risks from TSEs in order to limit or reduce the risks of human exposure to or transmission of TSEs in healthcare and other occupational settings. Reports to ACDP.

<http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/acdp/tseguidance/workinggroup.htm>

CJDIP - CJD Incidents Panel.

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Advises hospitals, trusts and public health teams (throughout the UK) on how to manage incidents involving possible transmission of CJD between patients. It is a subgroup of the ACDP TSE Working Group. Reports to the ACDP TSE Working Group, DH and NHS.

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733836426?p=1191942152861

RRP – Rapid Review Panel.

Provides a prompt assessment of new and novel equipment, materials, and other products or protocols that may be of value to the NHS in improving hospital infection control and reducing hospital acquired infections, including prion diseases. Reports to HPA and DH.

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1158313434380?p=1158313434380>

LSTTAG – Large-scale Tissue Testing Advisory Group.

Provides advice to the HPA on the most appropriate analytical tests and protocols to apply to large-scale tissue surveys of prion diseases.

No website

CJDAS – NICE CJD Advisory Committee.

Provides advice on the development of guidance on patient safety and reduction of risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) via interventional procedures. Reports to NICE.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=download&o=31751>

Medical Research Council New Therapies Scrutiny Group for Prion Disease.

Provides advice to the MRC on potential therapeutics or preventative agents for prion disease.

<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/PolicyGuidance/PolicyDevelopment/NewTherapiesScrutinyGroupforPrionDisease/index.htm>

SaBTO – Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs.

Provides advice on the most appropriate ways to ensure the safety of blood, cells, tissues and organs for transfusion / transplantation, including recommendations for management of the risks from TSEs to Ministers of the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations as well as UK Health Departments.

<http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/acsbto/index.htm>

ESAC-Pr- Engineering and Science Advisory Committee into the decontamination of surgical instruments including prion removal.

Carries out independent evaluation of new technologies for prion decontamination and considers their potential deployment in the healthcare setting. It has Industry and Scientific Subcommittees which facilitate discussions with industry and reviews the scientific basis for the efficacy of new decontamination technologies and protocols, respectively. Reports to DH.

http://www.hcsu.org.uk/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=798

Working Group for Research on Decontamination of Surgical Instruments.

Provides advice to DH on research to develop new methods for the decontamination of surgical instruments.

No website.

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PRWG –UK Blood Services Prion Removal Working Group.

Provides advice to manufacturers on the laboratory and clinical development requirements for prion removal systems. Reports to UK Blood Services.

No website

PAWG – UK Blood Services Prion Assay Working Group.

Provides a forum for discussion and collaboration with companies developing prion assays on how assays might be viewed and assessed from an operational viewpoint. Reports to UK Blood Services.

No website

CJD TAG – CJD Tissue Advisory Group.

Oversees the management of banks of fixed and frozen tissues from CJD cases and advises on the appropriate release of tissues for research. Reports to DH.

No website.

NEPNEI – Reporting to the Chief Medical Officer and advising the Department of Health to identify key areas for action and to advise on priorities by: identifying emerging and potential infectious threats to public health both nationally and internationally; placing emerging infections in the wider clinical and public health contexts; advising on prevention and control measures; prioritising areas for surveillance and for information needs; and advising on research, including technological development needs.

<http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/nationalexpertpanel/index.htm>