

Association for Nutrition Response to the Consultation on the SACN draft vitamin D and Health Report

Consultation Comments

The Association for Nutrition congratulates the SACN vitamin D working group, and in particular the Registered Nutritionists within the team, on producing a sound and thorough scientific review of the evidence on vitamin D and health.

The changes in the recommendations will have a substantial impact of the current public health advice provided in regards to achieving sufficient vitamin D intakes, and sources. We therefore welcome the acknowledgement in paragraph 806, that strategies will need to be given consideration to help the population achieve the proposed RNI/Safe Intakes, due to the difficulties in achieving this from dietary intakes alone.

These strategies will have a significantly effect on public health messaging and advice; on the food industry and the development of fortified foods; on the pharmaceutical industry and dietary supplements. Ensuring the advice provided to both the public and these industries is scientifically sound and robust is paramount to the success of achieving the RNI/Safe Intakes of vitamin D, and is something that Registered Nutritionists are qualified, competent and ideally positioned to provide and support.

Background information on submitting organisation

The **Association for Nutrition** (AfN) holds the UK Voluntary Register of Nutritionists (UKVRN) and champions UKVRN registrants, whose entry onto the Register is an assurance to all that they meet rigorous standards of competence and professionalism. Thus an essential element of AfN's work is to protect and benefit the public by defining and advancing standards of evidence-based practice across the field of nutrition and at all levels within the workforce. All UKVRN registrants (Registered Nutritionists (RNutr), Associate Nutritionists (ANutr)) have demonstrated both their training and expertise in nutrition, and agree to adhere to the AfN Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance. Registered and Associate Nutritionists are experts in the field of nutrition and provide reliable, evidence-based information, advice and support.

For more information please visit: www.associationfornutrition.org