Author's response to reviews

Title: The case study approach

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Robin,

Re: 4726512534893146/The case study approach

Thank you for your email of 22nd March 2011 inviting us to resubmit a revised manuscript. We are again very grateful to your reviewers for their constructive comments and we provide below a point-by-point response to the issues raised.

Responses to Reviewer 2:

1. The results of the case study outlines provided in Boxes 1-4 are now presented in a more consistent format; in particular, we now use the same ‘Key findings’ sub-heading in all four boxes.

2. We have, as suggested, further expanded on some of the key findings from these case studies; we have also provided more context about each of these studies, which we hope now makes it possible for readers to obtain an overview of these studies’ key insights. Furthermore, each of the case studies is also clearly referenced for those who wish to obtain a fuller picture of the work undertaken.

Responses to Reviewer 3:

3. The introduction has been revised by removing the sentence which suggested that the case study approach is under-used in health services research.

4. The section ‘What are case studies used for?’ has now been expanded to include a discussion on the circumstances/contexts in which we suggest it is appropriate to employ a case study-based approach as opposed to other designs, such as a randomised controlled trial. This issue is also highlighted in the conclusions section of the paper.
We believe that we have responded to each of the points made and trust that the resulting revisions are to your and the reviewers’ satisfaction. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or clarification.

With kind regards,

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&

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On behalf of the co-authors