Reviewer’s report

Title: Development of a sensitive novel diagnostic kit for the highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) virus

Version: 1 Date: 9 June 2014

Reviewer: Tony Cass

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1. This paper describes the rapid detection of avian influenza H5N1 using a chemiluminescent immunoassay with antibodies raised against the H5 protein and also against the influenza A pan specific nuclear protein. The method uses a commercially available luminometer and detection reagents with a panel of monoclonal antibodies previously described by the authors. The performance of the test is determined with both purified virus and clinical samples and compared with both RT-PCR and Immunochromatography. Unsurprisingly it performs better than the latter and not as well as the former, although it is considerably faster. The work appears to have carefully carried out and there are no flaws in either the method or the analysis.

2. Discretionary Revision: Table 4 is a summary of data largely already in Tables 2 and 3 and could be omitted

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests