Reviewer's report

Title: Incidence of and risk factors for Motor Neurone Disease in UK women: A prospective study

Version: 3 Date: 8 March 2012

Reviewer: Carmel Armon

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In regard to the following comment in the discussion:

"A review and meta-analysis of published evidence on smoking in relation to MND found a nonsignificant overall relative risk of 1*28 (95%CI 0*97-1*68) for smoking and MND risk [8], but after testing for a range of possible interactions, significant heterogeneity was found between studies, depending on the proportion of females in the study."

1. The reference is incorrectly numbered, it is reference 6.
2. The meta-analysis included data of varying quality, hence its results are less robust.

An evidence-based review (Armon, Neurology, 2009) was less ambiguous, because only the best quality evidence informed the conclusions.

All assessment of the role of smoking ignored passive smoking (which we have never asked about or quantified) which would shift the RR towards 1.0. Thus, our estimates of the impact of smoking are likely underestimates.