Author's response to reviews

Title: Existing maternal obesity guidelines may increase inequalities between ethnic groups: a national epidemiological study of 502,474 births in England

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Thank you for reviewing this manuscript, we have now responded to the two final comments below:

1. Please explicitly state what proportion of women booked after the first trimester (& thus had their BMI adjusted). Maybe I missed this but I couldn't find it.

We have now included a late booking row in table 3.

2. Please could you add a sentence to the study limitations paragraph acknowledging that you did this adjustment, & also stating that time of booking varies according to ethnicity and thus there is potentially a selection bias issue if the adjustment was inadequate.

We acknowledge the this approach may have incurred random error and increased the variability in the sample of individuals who booked late (e.g. those from minority ethnic groups), by producing both overestimates and underestimates of the true first-trimester values. We have no reason to believe, however, that the adjustment would introduce a systematic bias, and certainly no evidence that this would necessarily act in one direction more than the other. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the possibility of just this kind of bias, and how this would disproportionality effect late bookers in the discussion of the study strengths and limitations.