Reviewer’s report

Title: Experiences and outcomes of maternal Ramadan fasting during pregnancy: results from a sub-cohort of the Born in Bradford birth cohort study.

Version: 2 Date: 11 June 2014

Reviewer: Ihab Usta

Reviewer’s report:

• Major Compulsory Revisions

Maternal age: In the abstract, it is mentioned that older maternal age was associated with decreased OR for fasting (agrees with tables) but in the discussion, the opposite was mentioned (line 193) In these adjusted analyses younger maternal age, OR 0.87 (0.80-0.94)-contradicts tables and abstract. Mean age was lower in those that fasted.

All tables are huge and confusing-need to be shortened markedly. Limit to variables that are significant or essential to make a point. Can include some of the variables in the text. In table 1-suggest deleting totals.

Minor Essential Revisions

Other concerns

Excluding stillbirths would prevent the detection of the effect of fasting on stillbirth rate-statistical analysis without excluding stillbirths would be interesting.

Need to stress more the recall bias, specifically in assessing the days fasted.

Since preterm birth is one of the important outcome variables, details of dating (for e.g. how many were dated by first trimester ultrasound..) should be mentioned.

• Discretionary Revisions

Define obese

Line 229 Ramadan period was uncommonly reported by only 15 per cent of women-the number was 14% earlier

Line 79 Further it is unclear if there are dose response relationships are present between fasting duration-delete are present

Line 213 The birth outcomes, shown in table 3 below showed-delete one of the showed

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'