Author's response to reviews

Title: Longitudinal measurement of cortisol in association with mental health and experience of domestic violence and abuse: study protocol

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Dear Editor,

Longitudinal measurement of cortisol in association with mental health and experience of domestic violence and abuse: study protocol

Thank you for your letter from 15 January, 2013.

Please find below additional information required.

1. To confirm that this research study has been externally funded by a major funding body I attach two award letters, the first one from The Newton International Fellowships and the second one from the National Institute for Health Research, School for Primary Care Research.

2. To confirm that this protocol has been approved by an NHS Research Ethics Committee I attach two documents, a favourable ethical opinion for the study and a favourable opinion of the modified amendment from NRES Committee South-West Frenchay.

3. I also confirm that there are no manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol.

4. Both funding bodies had reviewed all parts of the study protocol. Although the funders did not send us a full list of peer reviewers, I can confirm that peer review advice from NIHR was provided by Prof Peter Bower, University of Manchester (peter.bower@manchester.ac.uk). Prof Carmin Pariante from King’s College London (carmine.pariante@kcl.ac.uk) reviewed the study protocol for the Newton International Fellowships.

Finally I had deleted the title, abstract and author details from the main manuscript and added non abused controls to Discussion.

Yours sincerely

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