Reviewer's report

Title: Associations between proximity to food retail stores and diet and BMI in Glasgow, Scotland

Version: 1 Date: 29 January 2011

Reviewer: Annie Anderson

Reviewer's report:

This paper is interesting and adds to the literature on food retail stores and dietary behaviours.

Major revisions:

• Discussion on representativeness of respondents (noting the % OW/obesity is dramatically less than Scottish average, a high % claimed to eat 5 a day, high % female respondents)

Minor essential revisions:

The paper might be enhanced by the following:

• In the introduction, reference should be made to the full report of the FSA funded Scotland wide survey of food access (available from http://www.foodbase.org.uk/results.php?f_report_id=608….)

• Methods sections needs a small adjustment (number with BMI< 25 was combined within healthy weight category), could the authors mean <20 ?

• It should be reported if any respondents were less than 18.5kg/m2 and they should probably be excluded but certainly not counted in healthy weight category

• Discussion should be provided on the concept that it may be time to move research into the shop and include issues around the % of healthy versus less healthy foods available (e.g the proportion of the fruit within a sea of confectionery), visible promotions and value deals to name but three of the more visible parameters that confront the shopper.

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.