Reviewer’s report

Title: The development and validation of an urbanicity scale in a multi-country study

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2012

Reviewer: Arpana Verma

Reviewer’s report:

The paper is excellent and of a very high standard. I greatly enjoyed reviewing it. There is comprehensive coverage of the first research question. The other two are not so well covered nor is how generalisation the urbanicity scale is. Could it be used outside the three countries it has been studied in? However, I note, the authors do note the way that the scale behaves within the countries included. This needs further discussion. There could be more emphasis on the utility of the scale to help with urban studies over and above that of health determinants.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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