Reviewer’s report

Title: Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems: A Step towards Full Vital Registration in Sub Sahara Africa?

Version: 2 Date: 29 July 2012

Reviewer: Peter Byass

Reviewer’s report:

I am satisfied with the revisions to the manuscript.

(For the sake of transparency I should point out that I am the Chair of the INDEPTH Network’s Scientific Advisory Committee, noting that the originally submitted manuscript was not affiliated to INDEPTH)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

Since INDEPTH has now come on board the paper, with the inclusion of Dr. Osman Sankoh as a co-author, I should declare that I am the Chair of the INDEPTH Network’s Scientific Advisory Committee. (If this authorship had been in place from the outset, I would probably have declined to review the paper, but it is too late now for that!) However, I do not receive any salary from INDEPTH, but only expenses etc. related to meetings. I have noted this changed situation in my review so that it will be transparent to anyone reading the pre-publication history for the paper.