Author's response to reviews

Title: Ethnicity and the ethics of data linkage

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(1) At the end of the final paragraph, in response to the reviewers' very helpful comments, I have added the sentence: 'This will be particularly challenging in the international context, where definitions of ethnicity are controversial, public health programmes may not be delivered by a single national health service, and questions arise about who will monitor such studies, or who will be the “public” whose approval is to be ensured. [4]'; and with reference to this I have added the note: '4. I am grateful to two reviewers of this commentary for pointing out these further challenges in the international context.'

(2) In line 9 of the final paragraph I have added 'to' between 'challenge is' and 'pursue what is good'.

(3) In reference 1, I have added what I believe are the up to date publication details, i.e., 'BMC Public Health 2007, 7:142 (5 July 2007)' but would be grateful if you could check that these are correct please.