Author’s response to reviews

Title: Identifying the determinants of premature mortality in Russia: overcoming a methodological challenge.

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Version: 5 Date: 2 November 2007

Author’s response to reviews: see over
2nd November 2007

Dear Dr. Phillips,

Re: MS: 1621476227130896 - Identifying the determinants of premature mortality in Russia: overcoming a methodological challenge.

Thank you for your email this afternoon. I am delighted to hear that you have decided to publish this manuscript pending the final few changes. I have now included a title page and formatted the abstract. I have just a couple of small queries, below.

1. Since much of this manuscript is involved with discussing the selection of study design for this challenging study, is it necessary in this instance to include the final study design in the title?

2. I have attempted to format the abstract to include the required subheadings. However, since this manuscript discusses a methodological challenge rather than reporting research results, the abstract does not lend itself easily to this format and I think this division of sections is a little abrupt. I would prefer to drop these headings and leave the abstract as one block if that would be acceptable.

Yours faithfully,

Susannah Tomkins, Vladimir Shkolnikov, Evgueni Andreev, Nikolay Kiryanov, Martin McKee and Lyudmila, Saburova