Reviewer’s report

Title: Stakeholder views of ethical guidance regarding prevention and care in HIV vaccine trials

Version: 4 Date: 22 April 2014

Reviewer: Jonathan Ives

Reviewer’s report:

I would like to thank the authors for their response to my comments. The changes that have been made satisfy my initial concerns. The paper is now much clearer, and the conclusion more robustly argued for and explained. It is better located within the empirical bioethics literature, and the aims of the study in that regard are now quite explicit. The results have been trimmed and clarified, and are now much more digestible. I am happy with the authors’ decision to keep table 1.

Whilst there are methodological decisions that I would not support myself, and although I think that the relationship between the normative and the empirical could be clearer, I think that the paper is publishable, and will be a useful addition to the literature that will benefit those who have an interest on the topic.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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