Reviewer's report

Title: Bismarck or Beveridge: a beauty contest between dinosaurs

Version: 3 Date: 28 March 2007

Reviewer: Alan Shiell

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have done a great job in responding to my concerns about equity. The revised conclusions and more cautious tone about our capacity to resolve questions relating to the relative performance of health systems empirically without good data on the impact of those systems on inequities addresses the one remaining issue I had with this manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
None

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
None

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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:
I declare that I have no competing interests