Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of health system governance and policy processes on health services in Iraqi Kurdistan

Version: 2 Date: 23 November 2009

Reviewer: Paul webster

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

1] I think the statement that "The budget of the Kurdish MoH is shockingly unknown" may be incorrect.

I have myself spoken with the Kurdish Minister of Health who gave me the figure.

2] I think that the statement that "since 1995, Iraq has spent less than 1% of its GDP on health...In light of historical developments, it would be rational to assume that Kurdistan follows a similar course" may also be incorrect.

Kurdish health spending is quantified in SIGIR reports, for example, and is estimated to be higher than 1% of GDP.

3] I would strongly advise these authors to contact the Kurdish MoH and seek information, statistics, reports, policy releases and interviews.

I find this article distant and lacking in hard figures, firm facts. This can possibly be remedied with half a dozen tape recorded phone calls which can be cited in sources.

4] I think these authours need to talk to Kurdish physicians and health officials in several communities including rural and urban. This can be done via telephone interviews.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests.