Author's response to reviews

Title: District health managers’ perceptions of supervision in Malawi and Tanzania

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Reviewer’s comments are in italics and responses are in normal font.

Reviewer 4:
*It is mentioned at the beginning of the methods section that the interview guide was based on a priori themes from the literature, but it is not until the data analysis section that the authors then mention the guide was developed in such a way as to allow for emerging themes. I suggest that this appears earlier on in the methods section.*

Response: An extra sentence has been added to the first paragraph of the Methods section (p.8) stating that the questions maintained sufficient flexibility to allow for emerging themes to be evoked.

*It is not clear who exactly was involved in the analysis or how many of the research team members conducted the analysis.*

Response: A sentence to describe the analysis team has been added to the Data analysis paragraph on p.10.