Reviewer's report

Title: What is the global burden of visual impairment?

Version: 4 Date: 4 February 2006

Reviewer: Richard P Wormald

Reviewer's report:

General
This is very useful and well thought out and written paper on a key issue.

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)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
I would suggest as I did in my review of the debate paper that the authors consider the matter of how disabling refractive error is - particularly with regard to myopia since people with minor degrees of the condition may reach criteria for low vision or even blindness but still have excellent near vision as with, depending on age, degrees of hyperopia for distance. The authors use the word blind to describe the affliction in the discussion which I think a bit strong.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare I have no competing interests