Author's response to reviews

Title: Clear obstacles and hidden challenges: Understanding recruitment from the perspective of recruiters in randomised controlled trials

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Hi - I have attached file, but the system seems to want me to add them here:

Dear Claire

Re: MS: 4019929071065992 – Clear obstacles and hidden challenges...

Thank you for your helpful comments and suggestions.

I have addressed these in the following ways:

C1 - a comma has been added.
C2 – this has now been altered without increasing the word count.
C3 – thank you for reminding me of this paper which is very interesting, but I have not included it in this paper as it does not directly report the views of recruiters.
C4 – I have adjusted the text as you suggested.
C5 – I have changed this as suggested and highlighted in yellow as it is an alteration to a tracked change.
C6 - Thank you for suggesting this paper which I had not seen before, although I did include a later paper saying much the same, published a year later – ref 25 (now 26). This paper is interesting but as you point out, it is not about recruitment. Referring to it here would, I think, disrupt the continuity of the paragraph which is about the impact of preferences on recruitment.
C7 - Thank you for reminding me of these – I have added one of them and re-ordered the remaining references to accommodate it. I somehow missed this reference in my searches – you were clearly ahead of me working on this!
C8 – the paediatric trial did not rely on the MCRN, but several of the
cancer-related trials relied on the NCRN. I have made this a bit clearer, using the NCRN as an example.

C9 – I have made the changes you suggested and highlighted in yellow.

I hope this addresses all the issues. Thank you for your help.

It is perhaps surprising that we have not met more often as we have been working in very similar areas for a number of years. I think you met some of my colleagues in Edinburgh. It would be good to meet up and discuss what you are doing – maybe some opportunities for collaboration? You would be very welcome to visit us – how about giving a seminar, or joining one of our regular discussion groups focussed on qualitative research in trials?

With best wishes

Jenny