Author’s response to reviews

Title: Social gradients in child and adolescent antisocial behaviour: A systematic review protocol.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Moher,

The authors would like to thank you for the comment on our manuscript: ‘Social gradients in child and adolescent antisocial behaviour: A systematic review protocol’ (MS ID: 2136698446706571). We have now addressed the point raised and are pleased to submit a revised manuscript. Changes to the manuscript have been highlighted in red in our revised text.

We have now explicitly stated that the quality appraisal checklist has been developed and piloted by the first author, showing good face validity (page 12). We appreciate that the use of quality scales is not supported by the Cochrane guidelines, however to our knowledge, risk of bias tables are only available for clinical trials which is not suitable for our proposed review. Therefore, we have decided to develop the scale assessing the general methodological and reporting quality of included studies. We believe that early piloting work performed on a sample of studies with following changes to the scale will allow us to reliably differentiate between the low- and high-quality studies.

We are grateful to the editors and the reviewers for their careful reading and we hope that the revised manuscript is now suitable for publication.

Yours sincerely,

Patrycja J. Piotrowska