Reviewer’s report

Title: Aspirations to become an anaesthetist: longitudinal study of historical trends and trajectories of UK-qualified doctors’ early career choices and of factors that have influenced their choices.

Version: 0 Date: 28 May 2017

Reviewer: Phillippa Poole

Reviewer’s report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

Interesting, well-written paper from a leading group. Good literature review, novel, rigorous and generalisable.

My suggestions are few but may improve your paper:

Background:

1. Line 4 I did not understand what is meant by 'holistic hospital specialty' - please expand on this. What about general medicine or geriatrics which consider the whole patient??

2. Suggest a bit more context either in the background or the discussion, e.g. Is there a shortage of doctors choosing anaesthesia in the UK? What proportion of current specialists in the UK are anaesthetists? What are the projected trends?

Results:

3. Page 6 Line 24 "Additional information 1 Table shows the numbers on which Figure 1 is based." This Sentence seems to be missing some words

4. Please consider whether you need all the tables, figure and results and P values in the text. There's quite lot to digest. For example, could you add the P values to the tables?

5. More consistency needed to make it easier to read

-order of men / women
- use of year 1, 3, or 5 cf. year one, three or five in figures

- y axis labels in Fig 1 - make the left one 1st choice, and the right one 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice

General:

6. Perhaps have another re-read as phrasing is sometimes a bit awkward because of use of commas / long sentences

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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