Author's response to reviews

Title: How many preterm births in England are due to excision of the cervical transformation zone? Nested case control study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Thank you very much, we are very pleased to be publishing this manuscript in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. We have addressed the editorial points listed below, and hope this is now satisfactory.

Best wishes,
Rebecca Landy

Thank you for submitting a revised version of your above manuscript to BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. Our Associate Editor has now assessed your revisions and I am pleased to inform you that they consider them to be satisfactory. However, before we are able to pass your manuscript onto our Production department, there are a number of editorial points that we would ask you to address. I include details on these below:

- Please remove the section Running Title from the title page
  We have removed this section.

- Please place the ethical approval statement within the Methods
  We have moved the ethical approval statement to the Methods section

- Please remove the section Funding and detail funding within the Acknowledgments section
  We now detail funding within the acknowledgements section

- There is no statement regarding informed consent. If the need for informed consent was waived by the IRB, please clearly state this.
  We had already included a sentence on ethical approval, and have added a sentence saying informed consent was not required.
  “This study was approved by the Brompton, Harefield, and NHLI research ethics committee, Charing Cross Hospital, London (study reference number: 09/h0708/65). Since this was a retrospective linkage study using routinely recorded data, informed consent was not required by the research ethics committee. All data received by the researchers were anonymous.”

- Please upload Appendix 1, Table S1 and Table S2 as separate additional files and provide a description of each one at the end of the manuscript text, according to the Instructions for Authors:
  http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcpregnancychildbirth/authors/instructions/researcharticle
  We will do this, and have added a description of each one at the end of the manuscript text.