Author’s response to reviews

Title: Defining and describing birth centres in the Netherlands - a component study of the Dutch Birth Centre Study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Re: Manuscript ID PRCH-D-16-00883R3

Leiden, 16th May 2017

Dear Heather Whitford,

Enclosed please find our revised version of Manuscript ID: PRCH-D-16-00883R3, entitled "Defining and describing birth centres in the Netherlands - a component study of the Dutch Birth Centre Study".

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise and resubmit this manuscript. We appreciate the time and effort that was taken to give us suggestions for revision.
The suggestions and comments are answered below.

We are hoping that our revision will lead to acceptance in your journal.

On behalf of all authors,

Kind Regards,

Marieke Hermus, RM, MS

Q1 Could you please provide clarification on whether the managers of the birth centres gave informed consent to participate in your study, and that they are aware that the details and characteristics of the birth centres would be used for research purposes? Please include a consent statement in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section.

If consent was not required, please provide details of why this was waivered and the institution/committee that approved the waiver (if applicable) OR state any national guidelines which waiver the need for consent.

Reply: informed consent was not required. We added information about this. (See page 9, lines 204-205)

Q2. Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship).
Currently, the contributions of author KP are not clear and do not automatically qualify them for authorship. Please provide clarification on their contributions, or remove their name from the list of authors and place them in the “Acknowledgements” section instead.

Reply: We reconsidered the list of authors, but did not make any changes. We added some extra information on the contributions of KP tot this manuscript. (See page 20, line 474)

Q3. Please check the total values in in your tables. It appears that some of the numbers do not add up, e.g. Table 3, the “To facilitate one-to-one/two support by MCA” row, which equals 21 but it says 22 in the “Totals” column.

Reply: We revised this value in Table 3 (See page 29, Table 3)

Q4. Please ensure that all figures/tables and supplementary files are cited within the text. Any items which are not cited may be deleted by our production department upon publication. Figure 2 does not appear to be cited in the text.

Reply: We added the citation of Figure 2 (See page 12, line 269)

Q5. Unfortunately BMC does not accept boxes for publication. Please remove Box 1 and include the information in a different format.

Reply: We removed Box 1 and added the information on the Dutch midwifery system in the background part (See page 4, lines 82-95)
Q6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.