Author's response to reviews

Title: Beyond resistance: Social factors in the general public response to pandemic influenza

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Dear Editor

In response to your questions regarding the ethics arrangements for our research, please see below:

- We would normally expect local ethical approval to be obtained from each site (in this case country) to be obtained for this type of study. Was local ethical approval sought or obtained for the UK component of the study?

No

- If not, please explain the reasons why this was so, and whether the Monash University Ethics Committee was aware of the UK arm of the study.

Monash University Ethics Committee was aware of the UK arm of the research and did not require that we seek ethics clearance in Scotland since oversight was provided by the Monash arrangements.

Monash University Ethics Committee approved an amendment to the ethics arrangement for the pandemic influenza project (CF09/2306- 2009001327: Pandemic influenza: People, Policy, Science) on the 18 November 2011 incorporating the UK arm of the research. This amendment specified the new Scottish site for the research, purposive recruitment criteria and methods, and that two named researchers in the UK – the UK CI and an RA – would recruit and consent participants according to the arrangements developed for the Australian sites. Oversight of these methods was provided by the lead CI, Dr Mark Davis.

Best wishes

Mark Davis