Reviewer’s report

Title: Undertaking a randomised controlled trial in the police setting: methodological and practical challenges

Version: 0 Date: 20 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Norbert Tripolt

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the invitation of review. The study entitled ’Undertaking a randomised controlled trial in the police setting: methodological and practical challenges´ by Scantlebury et al. reported a methodological manuscript for a pragmatic cluster randomised trial in the police setting in the UK.

The aim of this manuscript is to discuss some of the methodological and practical challenges of conducting an RCT in the police setting. Its theme is very interesting, especially for clinical trials in this setting.

The various difficulties, such as establishing the unit of randomisation, determining the sample size, the time frame and the definition of the outcomes are discussed in great detail. There is actually nothing more to add to this well done manuscript.

In summary, this study addressed important methodological problems of conducting an randomized trial in the police setting. This is a study that is of significance to its field and related area.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

Quality of figures
All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.
**Statistical review**
Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.