We thank the reviewers for their critical review and valuable comments. We appreciate your commitment and time taken to review our manuscript entitled: “Trends in maternal and neonatal mortality in South Africa: A systematic review protocol”. Please find below point-by-point responses to the reviewer’s comments. Changes to the text are indicated in red. The changes are also highlighted on the new manuscript using Track Changes.

Reviewer reports:
Before final acceptance I would like the authors to address three minor points:
1. Towards the end of the manuscript in the "Ethical approval" (there is no page numbering) The authors state "This systematic review has been registered .....". This is not ethics approval and this should be deleted.

-Deleted

2. The authors use a subheading "Meta bias". This should be changed to "Publication bias".

-Changed

3. All of the authors except the last one use public access e-mails. Is there a reason they are not using their academic e-mails?

All authors except one (Sia E. Msuya) have academic e-mails. Other authors decided to use public e-mails over academic e-mails depending on frequency of access. However, they have agreed to change to academic e-mails in this regard as follows:-

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