## LGBT report peer review comment response

## 1. Christine Burns

Location	Comment	Response
Exec	I thought the Treasury has placed L+G as	No action.
summ	at least 5% of the population during the	
	regulatory impact assessment of the Civil	
	Partnership Bill.	
	SORRY – I see you addressed this at p13!	
Exec	Did you include	No this was not searched (as I
summ	http://www.symposion.com/ijt/index.htm?	didn't know about this one).
500000	This is significant as much of the trans	However I just looked
	related stuff has not always been	through and there is no UK
	published in places that the medical	based general health.
	databases have picked up. Hence this is	C
	why you often encounter reports citing	
	research that is often well out of date (pre	
	1990 in some instances).	
p.4	Terminology? Do you mean Primary Care	This part has now been
	Trust? Also I question the ratio. The	removed.
	North West region has a population of 6.8	
	million served by 24 PCTs. This would	
	make the average PCT catchment	
	283,333.	
p.4	60 million? Should you not be doing these	England is ~ 50 million
	calculations on adult numbers though –	whereas GB is ~60 million.
	especially for sexual orientation, where	Also, some people know they
	the need differential is only likely to arise	are Lesbian and gay by the
	once self identification takes place.	time they are 11 and some
		trans people know much earlier.
n /	You also need to factor less urban settings	We just don't have any data
p.4	such as Brighton or Blackpool.	to factor this in accurately.
	such as Drighton of Diackpool.	to factor this in accurately.

Location	Comment	Response
p.5	No. See "Trans: A practical guide for the NHS". The 5,000 figure is based on applying the prevalence ratio of 1:11,900 to the ADULT population. It is also supported by Government polling of agencies such as DWP for gendered name changes. The figure doesn't include transgender. Indeed the Dutch research on which the prevalence figure is based relates specifically to people who went all the way through surgical gender reassignment. Therefore the figure is a not a predictor of the numbers of transsexual people who haven't yet come forward for help. It doesn't include transsexual people who don't have genital surgery. Overall, in fact, it leaves out more need areas than it includes!	Wording now changed to reflect your comment.
	The GRC process gives us a separate and more useful predictor of the incidence of cases completing permanent transition with medical support. The steady state rate of GRC applications is 25 per month (300 per year – so this is a good proxy for the number of transsexual people getting to the two year stage of transition with a gender specialist. Separately, figures obtained from the principal clinics suggest there are around 1,000 fresh cases presenting every year now for evaluation/support. The disparities between these numbers underline why a simple figure like "5,000" can be profoundly misleading – especially in terms of budgeting for annual referral arrangements in the average PCT.	
p.5	This may be a particular issue for trans. In countries with no public health care service and little employment protection, trans people are forced into the sex trade to survive and finance treatment. Generally this is not such an issue in the UK. Therefore the risk profiles are significantly different.	No action taken.
p.8	Do you need to explain this term for the reader?	Now explained in section 2.1.2.

Location	Comment	Response
p.19	I hate to raise this but it would be	This is discussed in section
	valuable to consider whether the age	5.2.2 - limitations of the
	distribution in these studies matches the	review.
	age distribution for the general population	
	in that year. The reason I mention that is	
	because it has been suggested that the	
	HIV/AIDS issue results in a lower	
	proportion of gay men (in particular)	
	surviving to the ages where longstanding	
	illnesses start to become more significant.	
	Alternatively, if not death rates, is there a	
	general problem of finding it much harder	
	to survey older gay and lesbian people	
	because of a retained desire to not be	
	identified as such?	
p.25	Do you mean "ideation"?	Yes (!)
p.35	This prompts me to ask the wider	No it isn't – discussed in
	question as to the existence of	section 5.2.2 – limitations of
	convenience sampling in ALL the LGB	the review.
	research you've examined. How do the	
	researchers locate their LGB subjects? Is	
	it a comparable approach to that used in	
	the whole population studies?	
p.36	See my previous remark. If the samples	Yes – see response above.
	are biased by a tendency towards younger	
	people of clubbing age (because of	
	convenience factors in participant	
	selection) is there a risk that all these	
	studies may be flawed by a tendency to	
	report consequently higher levels of risk	
	behaviour?	
p.36	Could you point out somewhere that the	I agree with your comment
	pattern of alcohol risk factors is likely to	but unfortunately we don't
	be different among trans people. LGB	have any evidence to back it.
	folk generally have more of a social	
	culture since sexual activity depends on	
	meeting people. By contrast trans people	
	tend to be less likely to drink in group	
	social settings and more likely to drink at	
	home or alone, where measures are not	
	controlled for instance. The risks may be	
	just as high but the pattern of drinking is	
	liable to turn out to be different.	

Location	Comment	Response
p.38	Again I think it is valuable to explain to the reader that there is likely to be a very different pattern of drug use in trans people. The recreational drugs found in clubs are likely to be far less prevalent but we know absolutely nothing about whether isolated trans people use other drugs in the same way as alcohol to escape their situation.	See comment above.
p.51	It would be nice to have a table so that the percentages can be more readily compared.	This is now being done.
p.51	I think you would need to distinguish episodes of exogenous depression arising from external factors particular to the transition period or not "passing" from spontaneously arising depression long after transition.	I agree but we have no information on this.
	Note that since this is a section about health experiences it may be worth pointing out the national studies I referred you to (Whittle et al and the work by the London SCG / AIAU) are both capable of being broken down to regional level so that figures COULD be extracted for West Midlands. In any case I recall that the representation by gender and age of the WM participants was comparable to the overall proportions, so results can be inferred. It would be nice to try and refer to some trans research in this area, in spite of the fact that there is none specific to WM, as the results are significant.	The Whittle survey you refer to is listed in appendix 3. There was no information I could obtain that was includable according to the inclusion criteria.
p.52	General practitioners?	No there was also teachers, practitioners seemed like the best generic term.
p.73	I recommend that you explain here the criminal law implications of improperly disclosing the background of a trans patient with a GRC. No research is needed to support such a statement; it's simply a fact that health staff may be reported to the police and prosecuted under section 22 of the Gender Recognition Act for disclosure without consent. See the NHS trans guide for a more detailed explanation.	This has now gone into Section 4 with all the other legal material.

Location	Comment	Response
p.73	Certainly for trans people too.	Agree but this is reporting the results of the systematic review and no trans research was includable.
p.74	Same goes for the substantial volume of DH/NHS resources now available re gender identity.	See comment above.
p.77	Note that gender reassignment is already part of the public sector gender equality duty. The intent in the new Equality Bill is to clarify this further and extend the definitions to cover a wider variety of people	This section has been rewritten.
p.78	You may wish to note that the likely trans population of each English region is estimated to be in the region of 500-550 people. (Essentially 10-11% of the 5,000 figure. This puts a sample of seven people (who were probably a convenience sample anyway) into clear perspective.	The extra bit added to the epidemiology section brings this point out.
p.82	The same goes for trans related research too.	I agree.
p.83	Again I would be grateful if you would refer to the available trans experience surveys even if only to explain that they were not included because they're not peer reviewed, published in a journal or broken down specifically for the WM area. The point is that although I appreciate the purpose of the study being to look at WM research, the audience need to know that there is at least SOMETHING they can refer to as indicative findings to tackle the trans evidence void.	This is now mentioned in section 5.2.2
p.83	Could you consider a rider to make that point for trans?	Now added - This is particularly true where no information was available, such as for trans health.
p.84	The lack of a previous baseline to compare will also impair the ability to draw any conclusions about improvement.	Agree – now added.
p.84	Do you mean adult men, young adults? (18-65) or all adults (18-death).	All adults.

Location	Comment	Response
p.85	The figure also suggests that action directed at reducing self harm in the LGB population specifically would have a disproportionate effect on reducing the overall statistic. Remember that the 2.4% figure is inclusive of the LGBT population. If you addressed self harm in LGBT it would reduce the overall numbers by 62.5%! A case, if ever, for targeted actions.	Agree - sentence added.
p.86	Consider rephrasing.	"Ever" removed.
p.88	And (separately) trans people. A relevant question because it is often erroneously asserted that lots of trans people regret their treatment and go on to be suicidal, whereas the available evidence suggests that the risk is significant in untreated gender Dysphoria but then diminishes markedly following treatment. What we don't know is the incidence of non- transition related to mental health issues post transition.	Separate bullet point added.
p.88	Similar question re trans people – possibly exacerbated by issues relating to use of public sports centre facilities.	Sentence added.
p.89	I don't know how you could deal with this but there is a string of related questions for trans people which you cannot ask here because the methodology prevents you from considering the research the points to the problems. Is it possible to include a paragraph to make that point in some way? Otherwise, although you put a very important trans issue first in your list, there is a risk of readers coming away with no awareness of the specific health issues relating to (for example) self medication by trans people, or the effects of the high rate of people reporting being refused healthcare by GPs.	I have put some of this in anyway because I think it needs to be there.

## 2. Justin Varney

Location	Comment	Response
NB This peer review is handwritten and straightforward changes have not been listed		
here		
Exec summ	Needs to be more crunchy, from what you've said should recommend: - routine monitoring of s/o across HES - inclusion of s/o and g/I monitoring in all research (pop based) - target research in to specific causal relationship	This section now completely rewritten to make clearer about requirements needed.
p.3	Rephrase around disclosure and fear of discrimination – there is research on this I think and methodology is important.	Rephrased, NB The aim of the background sections is solely to give sufficient information so that the reader can understand the rest of the review.
p.5	Might be worth reporting % BME in census or disability estimated.	See comment above, no BME/disability research was included.
p.5	US did urban prevalence study over 10 cities which said higher in urban centres.	UK added.
р.б	Dutch study on prevalence.	Section now reworded.
p.7	This needs to be in the aims section.	Not in the rigid format of REP reports.
p.9	Might need to justify more (about excluding HIV research) as there might have been transfer of messages.	Justification sentence added to end of section 2.2.
p.17	Wondered about the reviews done for civil partnership?	The only civil partnership review I know of was for prevalence, rather than health. Nothing else came up in the searches.
p.18	Need footnote to define (impact factor).	Now done.
p.20	Interesting given HIV is a disability.	Now put into background section that MSM with HIV/AIDS comprise approximately 0.02% of the gay male population.
p.20	Is this about access or health?	Its about health service use really.
p.21	This is very significant and needs to be flagged (2% cancer rate).	Yes but the sample is very small and convenience, so we really don't know how accurate.
p.22	What does this mean (GHQ scoring system).	General explanation of questionnaire measures now in section 2.2 explanation of outcome measures.

Location	Comment	Response
p.54	Link to target in national sexual health	This is now in the discussion
	strategy.	section.
p.67	Concept of social norm for health risk.	No action taken.
p.83	Lots of maternity repeating same message?	This section now edited.
p.86	Legislation and policy framework – rephrase and link to NHS constitution.	This section now rewritten, including NHS Act. However, the heading is fixed for REP reports.
p.88	Can you compare to BME or disability.	Relevant BME literature now inserted.
p.89	Might be an artefact because need assistance so are investigated.	So are the heterosexual women comparison group
p.92	(strength of team) not sure if relevant but might be for local politics	I think this is important for credibility.
p.96	May be worth referencing Bolton's targeted resource.	There is another one in Glasgow and the Audre Lord clinic, but I think we need to concentrate on the West Midlands and general NHS services for this.
p.98	Might be better to cluster there 1, epid/PH research 2, prevention/screening, 3, treatment intervention 4, outcomes 5, causality	The order it was in was driven by the results section, now clustered into themes.

## 3. Ruth Garside

Location	Comment	Response
	Thanks very much for giving me the chance to	Thanks for reading! I
	see this – I enjoyed reading it!	have generally tried to
		make the changes you
	As a general point, the title suggests that you	have suggested. I think
	will be comparing LGBT health in the W.	they are all good points
	Midlands to that in the UK, but in fact a lot of	but, in a few cases where
	your comparison in Section 3.23 compare	changes haven't been
	LGBT (from WM or the UK as a whole) to the	made that was more in
	general population. This may need justifying?	consideration of the
	Although, I do think it is reasonable as there is	report recipients. They
	so little health data from any source for the	will not be particularly
	LGBT population. You may need to make	knowledgeable about
	some statement for the qual stuff about	methods of qualitative
	whether or not you are assuming that the	review and I considered
	findings are transferable from other UK	that some of the detail
	locations to the W. Midlands.	might act to confuse
		rather than clarify issues.
		Inserted at the end of
		section 3.2.5: Since
		limited qualitative data
		was available from West
		Midlands surveys,
		discussion of qualitative
		findings relates to all UK
		studies. It was
		considered that findings would be reasonably
		generalisable to the
		West Midlands area.
	Also, it is quite difficult to get a picture of	Not sure if you are
	what's going on in the effectiveness review	talking about qualitative
	because there are so many different outcomes	results but, as another
	etc. Some summary statements in each section	reviewer commented
	about what the data says (or doesn't say)	that it would be useful, a
	would be helpful.	table has been inserted to
		summarise qualitative
		findings (table 44 p.79)
p.11 (&	Quality assessment tool – the Wallace criteria	Removed + and - scores
p.139,	doesn't have the "+" "-" scores – these are	
Table	from NICE – not sure if you want to include	
54)	them, (I wouldn't!) especially as there doesn't,	
	at first glance, seem to be that much difference	
	in criteria in Table 54 between those you've	
	given + and those given -) if you do, you	
	should probably say in the methods how you	
	made the decision to give a positive of	
	negative grade.	

Location	Comment	Response
p.12	The description of what you did to analyse the	More detail given (p.12).
-	findings is very sparse - were the findings	
	synthesised or summarized across studies?	
	Once we get to the results section it appears	
	that you have summarized the health related	
	areas discussed by the papers and then	
	produced a thematic analysis which identifies	
	and synthesises barriers to good healthcare	
	under a series of sub-themes.	
	Where do these thematic headers come from?	Themes were derived
	Are they taken from the included literature or	from the included
	introduced by the research team? How did you	literature, identified by
	decide which to use? For example, are the	reading all studies.
	concepts of items such as "conferred and	Studies were then re-
	internalized homophobia" described in the	read to retrieve all data
	papers? If not, when did you decide to use	relevant to those themes.
	them – prior to reading the papers, or through	relevant to those themes.
	reading the papers? If so, did they all use this	Described p.12:
	terminology or have you assumed that some	Qualitative information on
	papers are talking about this, even if it is	experiences of LGB
	labelled another way in the papers itself (i.e.	healthcare from the point
	you have "translated" the findings of one	of view of patients and
	•	professionals was
	paper into those of another as in meta-	extracted. Synthesis was conducted using an
	ethnography?). If not, how did you come to	approach similar to meta-
	use this terminology, and how did you apply	ethnography but involving
	these terms and interpretive tools to	both first order concepts
	understand the literature?	(expressions of
		participants) and second
		order concepts (interpretations or
		explanations by
		researchers of included
		studies) in thematic
		analysis. Themes were
		identified by reading the
		included studies. Papers were re-read and relevant
		concepts were grouped
		into these themes narrative
		discussion. Synthesis was
		undertaken by a
		researcher who has no particular theoretical
		approach to qualitative
		research or LGB health.
		Data extraction and
		thematic synthesis was
		conducted by one
		reviewer. Another reviewer read papers and checked
		findings for consistency.
		manys for consistency.

Location	Comment	Response
	You might find it helpful to distinguish between first order concepts (the words of the participants that are used to interpret their experiences), second order concepts (the interpretations of these by the primary researchers) and your interpretations as reviewers (3 <sup>rd</sup> order interpretations – see (Britten et al. 2002;Campbell et al. 2003). Have you organized your analysis by interpreting the primary data, or by interpretations of the findings?	Both primary data and interpretations of findings were used. Details given (see p.12).
	How many people undertook the analysis? If more than one, how did you collaborate to analyse the findings and to produce the synthesis?	One (p.11).
	Meaning of the last sentence on p.12 is unclear. Does it mean that you didn't have an extraction sheet? How did you code the findings that were extracted?	Didn't use a formal extraction sheet. Findings were highlighted as relevant to certain themes on the papers themselves as went through. A record was made of the concepts identified. Themes were then developed by reviewing the concepts. Once themes had been generated, papers were re-read and all data relevant to each theme was directly entered into a word document.
p.62 3 <sup>rd</sup> para	You say that the studies used qualitative techniques to collect and analyse data but only report the data collection methods – what methods of analysis did they use? Did any claim recognized philosophical approaches (IPA, grounded theory etc)? Also, what, if any, use of theory was there? Also, the status of self completed questionnaires as qualitative research may be equivocal especially, I suspect, where 307 participants are involved! I assume you mean that there were open questions on a survey – but how were they analysed?	Methods of data analysis and theory of approach have been inserted in table 43 p.56.

Location	Comment	Response
p.62	It might be helpful to discuss the focus of the included papers and how you approached this in the analysis. For example, some are very focused – on treatment of homosexuality since the 50s, or homophobic bullying on schools - whilst a number of others are more clearly similar – about experiences of healthcare among LGBT. How did you approach these differences in the analysis? Did it cause any difficulties? Did all contribute to the synthesis? Did some contribute more than others? Did it mean that some findings were not included in the synthesis because they did not have much overlap with your interests? Etc.	See bottom p.54. The source of each first or second order concept was stated to give transparency but data from different sources was not treated differently in the analysis. Some papers contributed a lot more data to the review than others. If findings were not relevant to the review i.e. did not address LGB health, they were not included and, where a theme was only identified from one source or weakly identified, this was not always included.
p.65	Are these speculations about the impact of the sexuality of the researcher based on your interpretations or do these come from the primary research authors? It's not clear here. Is this the only or main concern of reflexivity?	Where researchers are explicit about their sexuality, this is noted in quality assessment (table 57). In most cases it is not and these speculations come from own interpretations.
	It could be argued that, as review of qualitative research is also an interpretive endeavour, some reflexive practice from the <i>review</i> authors is also good practicewhat ideological perspective do you bring to the review? How might this "bias" your interpretation?	p.12 has stated that no particular ideological perspective. But I suppose will always have a perspective of some sort!

Location	Comment	Response
	I would also suggest that the language of	Removed these terms
	"bias" and "unbiased" is not that helpful in this	(p.58).
	context, since all people come with their own	
	agenda, there is no one objective answer – it's	
	about perspective, orientation and/or focus and	
	how open and thoughtful people are about this	
	in the write up. The criteria are quite different	
	to quantitative research. In addition, there is a	
	long (legitimate) tradition of "emancipatory"	
	or advocacy research within qualitative	
	research – identifying and articulating	
	marginalised voices to emphasise their	
	particular needs. Within this context,	
	emphasizing where systems or people are,	
	rather than are not, homophobic (for example)	
	is completely legitimate. The language used to	
	articulate this - "at the mercy of" the	
	researcher, sounds very distrustful – do you	
	mean to be so?	
p.66	"sources of bias and confusion"? Do you mean	Removed (p.58).
	it confuses you? - Not sure that this is an	
	appropriate term!	
p.66	Are all the health behaviours you discuss	Identified by research of
	perceived as relevant to both gay men and	LGBT individuals. For
	lesbians? Who identified these – health	most, but not all of the
	professionals or LGBT community?	behaviours mentioned
		studies had been done in
		both men and women.
p.66	You say that you are "summarizing" the	Replaced with 'brings
3.2.6	literature – is this right? i.e. you have	together'.
	summarised all the findings in all papers	
	without trying to synthesise them or	
	understand them in relation to each other or	
	interpret the findings?	

Location	Comment	Response
	Again, it is not clear whether the focus on barriers to healthcare is your imposed focus and thematic organizer, or if this comes from the primary research. Similarly for the list on p.67. I would also have thought that it is important to identify areas of agreement and disagreement between key areas identified by LGBT and the health professionals.	The focus comes from the primary literature identified from reading the papers. By the headings, whether the discussion relates to patients/professionals has been added (p.60-61 and p.73)
		The table in appendix 7 may help as it shows which studies contributed to which themes.
Section 3.2.6.2	Throughout his section, it would be helpful to be totally clear about who and what is being quoted – participants vs. author quote is not clear in a number of places; if the study is of health professionals vs. LGBT; man vs. women – there may be others. This may mean reassigning labels since "respondent 9" for example isn't informative outside the primary study. It may also be helpful to summarise which studies contributed to a theme at the beginning of the section – for example whether studies among lesbians, gay men and health professionals all identified the same theme. Alternatively, it may be possible to do a table showing which studies contributed to which themes.	To try to make it clearer I have added (p.59-60): "In the text, " <i>Italics</i> " are used to identify concepts from study participants and 'single quotation marks' identify concepts of study authors." Made change to make the identity of the respondent clearer. Table with studies included for each theme has been added in appendix 7. Added.
	42 making it difficult to cross reference between reported study findings and the aim, date, location etc. of the studies	
p.68-70	Most of the stuff reported about conferred homophobia relates to a historic study. It may be helpful to consider the impact and relevance of this to current practice more clearly. Alternatively, should it be excluded? - Particularly as you excluded studies published post-2000 presumably as the expressed views were likely to be dated?	Although these studies relate to historical events, views expressed are current and so considered relevant.

Location	Comment	Response
	In addition, given the focus of the review, there are distinctions to be drawn here, and in	In this review, concepts relating to expression of
	the following sections, between the impact of a homophobic culture generally (?and its impact	homophobia in the healthcare setting were
	on health) and the way that this is explicitly expressed in people's experiences of healthcare.	found but no information relating the impact of the generally homophobic
		culture on health was identified. Drawing distinctions maybe
		useful but, since the latter type of evidence was not found, it was felt that distinction between these might act to confuse readers rather than clarify.
p.70	Middle paragraph - is the interpretation of the GPs language as homophobic yours or the primary study authors? It isn't clear.	My interpretation. Study author interpretations are always in 'quotations' or referred to as author interpretations.
p.71	"in the body of qual. research" is this your interpretation of the findings and /or quotes, or is it found in the literature itself (note as well that although you say "in the body of" all the quotes used are form a single study).	It is my interpretation. Changed to "in one study".
p.72	Following on from the comments above, is it you or the authors of the papers that are making the distinction between homophobia and heterosexism? It would be useful to identify where the use here has come from.	I have made the distinction. But it is made commonly by other researchers in this area.
p.74/5	It's not clear to me why the stuff about inappropriate behaviour is here rather than in the homophobia section? You may well have a rationale that just needs outlining more clearly.	Yes, to a certain extent I agree that this fits in the homophobia section. The emphasis is slightly different though – not only having homophobic attitudes but when doctors etc do not give proper treatment/act in a non-professional way.
p.79 2 <sup>nd</sup> para	<ul> <li>again – I think that this is <i>your</i> interpretation of the findings but these needs to be made clear.</li> </ul>	Yes, it is my interpretation but that should be made clearer by the bit added on bottom page 59-60 (In the text, <i>"Italics…</i> ).

Location	Comment	Response
p.82	"suggestion that confidentiality not always maintained" in 1 <sup>st</sup> sentence paragraph 3 but many examples quoted are about perceptions or fears, rather than an actual breach?	Yes, have changed to: "Participants in some studies had concerns about confidentially in relation to their sexual orientation".
Minor points	There are some odd page breaks where Word has done its weird thing of attaching cross references to breaks in the figure/table label.	Yes we've tried to tackle this – ongoing problem.
p.V. 1st para	– "trans" in full in the abstract or put in the Glossary?	This is explained in section 2.1.2.
p.V 3rd para	"circulated for comment" – to whom?	Now changed to "NHS and academic colleagues for comments".
p.V	Methods says non-peer reviewed research was excluded but results mentioned that unpublished research was included – unclear here although I know that this is explained in greater detail in the review body (p.6-7) – it would be helpful to have some more explanation here is space.	Now reads "Included were West Midlands surveys, systematic reviews with UK studies and peer reviewed and published UK quantitative and qualitative primary studies on LGBT people reporting any physical and mental health outcomes, health behaviours and experience of healthcare".
p.V	Results section – there may not be room, but some indication of the research designs and focus would be helpful here?	These are in Appendix 5.
p.1 2.1.1	Туро "."	I'm sorry but I can't find it.
p.3	It's not clear what a "category 2" ONS ques is.	Footnote now added to explain.
p.13	No description of how the qualitative research will be presented, only quantative.	This is given in section 3.2.5 onwards, now mentioned on p12.
p.20	Last sentence – would be helpful to repeat the % of LGB people taking medication here.	There was a general difficulty of whether to repeat tables in the text or include general population data in tables. In the end, the latter has been chosen.

Location	Comment	Response
p.20	Sentence beginning "equivalent rates" Is problematic – not clear which "categories" are referred to as so many different measures in Table 6.	Equivalent removed.
	Also is it true that rates of very good or good health are lower in the LGB population than the general? 74% general pop vs. 79.3% women in excellent or good health in Prescription for change, "very good or good" 86.2% WSM, 81.7% WSMW and 87.8% WSW in Mercer et al 2007?	Wording changed to difficult to determine.
p.28 Table 15	There are big differences in lifetime suicide attempts between men and women – worth highlighting in the text?	There is high heterogeneity in the men's so I decided not.
p.28	May be useful to reiterate that the published papers are UK based?	Rivers now is a new paragraph to distinguish from the systematic review.
p.31 Table 17	The write up & title around this are about infertility but reports acnes, hirsutism etc as well. A bit misleading – I assume acne isn't a cause of infertility!	Now inserted - With regard to baseline characteristics of the two samples.
p.61	Break down the number of papers with gay men and women here?	This is in table 43.
p.68	Your comment "the direct physical abuse" etc. seems to suggest that the other treatments described might be acceptable!	We are unclear how you interpreted the sentence that way so it has not been changed.
p.85	– typo third line "that" instead of "than".	Changed.

p.85– typo third line "that" instead of "than".Changed.Britten, N., Campbell, R., Pope, C., Donovan, J., & Morgan, M. 2002, "Using<br/>meta-ethnography to synthesise qualitative research: a worked example", J<br/>Health Serv Res Policy, vol. 7, no. 4, pp. 209-215.

Campbell, R., Pound, P., Pope, C., Britten, N., Pill, R., Morgan, M., & Donovan, J. 2003, "Evaluating meta-ethnography: a synthesis of qualitative research on lay experiences of diabetes and diabetes care", *Social Science and Medicine*, vol. 56, pp. 671-684.