## LGBT report peer review comment response

## 1. Christine Burns

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 research that is often well out of date (pre 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


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


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| p.19 | I hate to raise this but it would be <br> valuable to consider whether the age <br> distribution in these studies matches the <br> age distribution for the general population <br> in that year. The reason I mention that is <br> because it has been suggested that the <br> HIV/AIDS issue results in a lower <br> proportion of gay men (in particular) <br> surviving to the ages where longstanding <br> illnesses start to become more significant. | This is discussed in section <br> 5.2.2 - limitations of the <br> review. |
|  | Alternatively, if not death rates, is there a <br> general problem of finding it much harder <br> to survey older gay and lesbian people <br> because of a retained desire to not be <br> identified as such? |  |
| p.25 | Do you mean "ideation"? |  |
| p.35 | This prompts me to ask the wider <br> question as to the existence of <br> convenience sampling in ALL the LGB <br> research you've examined. How do the <br> researchers locate their LGB subjects? Is <br> it a comparable approach to that used in <br> the whole population studies? | Yes (!) <br> the review. |
| p.36 | See my previous remark. If the samples <br> are biased by a tendency towards younger <br> people of clubbing age (because of <br> convenience factors in participant <br> selection) is there a risk that all these <br> studies may be flawed by a tendency to of <br> report consequently higher levels of risk <br> behaviour? | Yes - see response above. |
| p.36 | Could you point out somewhere that the <br> pattern of alcohol risk factors is likely to <br> be different among trans people. LGB <br> folk generally have more of a social <br> culture since sexual activity depends on <br> meeting people. By contrast trans people <br> tend to be less likely to drink in group <br> social settings and more likely to drink at <br> home or alone, where measures are not <br> controlled for instance. The risks may be <br> just as high but the pattern of drinking is <br> liable to turn out to be different. | I agree with your comment <br> but unfortunately we don’t <br> have any evidence to back it. |


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


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


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

## 2. Justin Varney

$\left.$| Location | Comment | Response |
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| NB This peer review is handwritten and straightforward changes have not been listed <br> here | Exec <br> summ | Needs to be more crunchy, from what <br> you've said should recommend: <br> - routine monitoring of s/o across HES <br> - inclusion of s/o and g/I monitoring in <br> all research (pop based) <br> - target research in to specific causal <br> relationship | | This section now completely |
| :--- |
| rewritten to make clearer about |
| requirements needed. | \right\rvert\,

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

## 3. Ruth Garside

| Location | Comment | Response |
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|  | Thanks very much for giving me the chance to see this - I enjoyed reading it! <br> As a general point, the title suggests that you will be comparing LGBT health in the W . Midlands to that in the UK, but in fact a lot of your comparison in Section 3.23 compare LGBT (from WM or the UK as a whole) to the general population. This may need justifying? Although, I do think it is reasonable as there is so little health data from any source for the LGBT population. You may need to make some statement for the qual stuff about whether or not you are assuming that the findings are transferable from other UK locations to the W. Midlands. | Thanks for reading! I have generally tried to make the changes you have suggested. I think they are all good points but, in a few cases where changes haven't been made that was more in consideration of the report recipients. They will not be particularly knowledgeable about methods of qualitative review and I considered that some of the detail might act to confuse rather than clarify issues. <br> 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 what's going on in the effectiveness review because there are so many different outcomes etc. Some summary statements in each section about what the data says (or doesn't say) would be helpful. | Not sure if you are talking about qualitative results but, as another reviewer commented that it would be useful, a table has been inserted to summarise qualitative findings (table 44 p.79) |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { p. } 11 \text { (\& } \\ & \text { p. } 139, \\ & \text { Table } \\ & \text { 54) } \end{aligned}$ | Quality assessment tool - the Wallace criteria doesn’t have the "+" "-" scores - these are from NICE - not sure if you want to include 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. | Removed + and - scores |

$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|l|}\hline \text { Location } & \text { Comment } & \text { Response } \\ \hline \text { p.12 } & \begin{array}{l}\text { The description of what you did to analyse the } \\ \text { findings is very sparse - were the findings } \\ \text { synthesised or summarized across studies? } \\ \text { Once we get to the results section it appears } \\ \text { that you have summarized the health related } \\ \text { areas discussed by the papers and then } \\ \text { produced a thematic analysis which identifies } \\ \text { and synthesises barriers to good healthcare } \\ \text { under a series of sub-themes. }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { More detail given (p.12). } \\ \\ \\ \hline \begin{array}{l}\text { Where do these thematic headers come from? } \\ \text { Are they taken from the included literature or } \\ \text { introduced by the research team? How did you } \\ \text { decide which to use? For example, are the } \\ \text { concepts of items such as "conferred and } \\ \text { internalized homophobia" described in the } \\ \text { papers? If not, when did you decide to use } \\ \text { them - prior to reading the papers, or through } \\ \text { reading the papers? If so, did they all use this } \\ \text { terminology or have you assumed that some } \\ \text { papers are talking about this, even if it is } \\ \text { labelled another way in the papers itself (i.e. }\end{array} \\ \begin{array}{l}\text { Themes were derived } \\ \text { from the included } \\ \text { literature, identified by } \\ \text { reading all studies. } \\ \text { you have "translated" the findings of one } \\ \text { paper into those of another as in meta- } \\ \text { ethnography?). If not, how did you come to } \\ \text { read to retre thene re- } \\ \text { relevant to those themes. } \\ \text { use this terminology, and how did you apply } \\ \text { these terms and interpretive tools to } \\ \text { understand the literature? }\end{array} \\ \begin{array}{l}\text { Described p.12: } \\ \text { Qualitative information on } \\ \text { experiences of LGB } \\ \text { healthcare from the point } \\ \text { of view of patients and } \\ \text { professionals was } \\ \text { extracted. Synthesis was } \\ \text { conducted using an } \\ \text { approach similar to meta- } \\ \text { ethnography but involving } \\ \text { both first order concepts }\end{array} \\ \text { (expressions of } \\ \text { participants) and second } \\ \text { order concepts } \\ \text { (interpretations or } \\ \text { explanations by } \\ \text { researchers of included } \\ \text { studies) in thematic } \\ \text { analysis. Themes were } \\ \text { identified by reading the } \\ \text { included studies. Papers } \\ \text { were re-read and relevant } \\ \text { concepts were grouped } \\ \text { into these themes narrative } \\ \text { discussion. Synthesis was } \\ \text { undertaken by a }\end{array} \\ \text { researcher who has no } \\ \text { particular theoretical } \\ \text { approach to qualitative } \\ \text { research or LGB health. } \\ \text { Data extraction and } \\ \text { thematic synthesis was } \\ \text { conducted by one } \\ \text { reviewer. Another reviewer } \\ \text { read papers and checked } \\ \text { findings for consistency. }\end{array}\right\}$
$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|l|}\hline \text { Location } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Comment } \\ \text { You might find it helpful to distinguish } \\ \text { between first order concepts (the words of the } \\ \text { participants that are used to interpret their } \\ \text { experiences), second order concepts (the } \\ \text { interpretations of these by the primary } \\ \text { researchers) and your interpretations as } \\ \text { reviewers (3 }{ }^{\text {rd }} \text { order interpretations - see } \\ \text { (Britten et al. 2002;Campbell et al. 2003). } \\ \text { Have you organized your analysis by } \\ \text { interpreting the primary data, or by } \\ \text { interpreting/ synthesising the existing } \\ \text { interpretations of the findings? }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { Both primary data and } \\ \text { interpretations of } \\ \text { findings were used. } \\ \text { Details given (see p.12). }\end{array} \\ \hline & \begin{array}{l}\text { How many people undertook the analysis? If } \\ \text { more than one, how did you collaborate to } \\ \text { analyse the findings and to produce the } \\ \text { synthesis? }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { One (p.11). } \\ \\ \hline \begin{array}{l}\text { Meaning of the last sentence on p.12 is } \\ \text { unclear. Does it mean that you didn't have an } \\ \text { extraction sheet? How did you code the } \\ \text { findings that were extracted? }\end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{l}\text { Didn't use a formal } \\ \text { extraction sheet. } \\ \text { Findings were } \\ \text { highlighted as relevant } \\ \text { to certain themes on the } \\ \text { papers themselves as } \\ \text { went through. A record }\end{array} \\ \text { was made of the } \\ \text { concepts identified. } \\ \text { Themes were then } \\ \text { developed by reviewing } \\ \text { the concepts. Once } \\ \text { themes had been } \\ \text { generated, papers were } \\ \text { re-read and all data } \\ \text { relevant to each theme } \\ \text { was directly entered into } \\ \text { a word document. }\end{array} \\ \hline \text { p.62 3rd } & \begin{array}{ll}\text { rd }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { You say that the studies used qualitative } \\ \text { pechniques to collect and analyse data but only } \\ \text { report the data collection methods - what } \\ \text { methods of analysis did they use? Did any } \\ \text { claim recognized philosophical approaches } \\ \text { (IPA, grounded theory etc)? Also, what, if any, } \\ \text { use of theory was there? Also, the status of self } \\ \text { completed questionnaires as qualitative } \\ \text { research may be equivocal especially, I } \\ \text { suspect, where 307 participants are involved! I } \\ \text { assume you mean that there were open } \\ \text { questions on a survey - but how were they } \\ \text { analysed? }\end{array}\end{array} \begin{array}{l}\text { Methods of data analysis } \\ \text { and theory of approach } \\ \text { have been inserted in } \\ \text { table 43 p.56. }\end{array}\right\}$
$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|l|}\hline \text { Location } & \text { Comment } & \text { Response } \\ \hline \text { p.62 } & \begin{array}{l}\text { It might be helpful to discuss the focus of the } \\ \text { included papers and how you approached this } \\ \text { in the analysis. For example, some are very } \\ \text { focused - on treatment of homosexuality since } \\ \text { the 50s, or homophobic bullying on schools - } \\ \text { whilst a number of others are more clearly } \\ \text { similar - about experiences of healthcare } \\ \text { among LGBT. How did you approach these } \\ \text { differences in the analysis? Did it cause any } \\ \text { difficulties? Did all contribute to the } \\ \text { synthesis? Did some contribute more than } \\ \text { others? Did it mean that some findings were } \\ \text { not included in the synthesis because they did } \\ \text { not have much overlap with your interests? } \\ \text { Etc. }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { second order first or } \\ \text { sas stated to give } \\ \text { waransparency but data } \\ \text { from different sources } \\ \text { was not treated } \\ \text { differently in the } \\ \text { analysis. Some papers } \\ \text { contributed a lot more } \\ \text { data to the review than } \\ \text { others. If findings were } \\ \text { not relevant to the } \\ \text { review i.e. did not } \\ \text { address LGB health, } \\ \text { they were not included } \\ \text { and, where a theme was } \\ \text { only identified from one } \\ \text { source or weakly } \\ \text { identified, this was not } \\ \text { always included. }\end{array} \\ \hline \text { p.65 } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Are these speculations about the impact of the } \\ \text { sexuality of the researcher based on your } \\ \text { interpretations or do these come from the } \\ \text { primary research authors? It’s not clear here. Is } \\ \text { this the only or main concern of reflexivity? }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { Where researchers are } \\ \text { explicit about their } \\ \text { sexuality, this is noted in } \\ \text { quality assessment table } \\ 57) . ~ I n ~ m o s t ~ c a s e s ~ i t ~ i s ~\end{array} \\ \text { not and these } \\ \text { speculations come from } \\ \text { own interpretations. }\end{array}\right\}$

| Location | Comment | Response |
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|  | I would also suggest that the language of <br> "bias" and "unbiased" is not that helpful in this <br> context, since all people come with their own <br> agenda, there is no one objective answer - it's <br> about perspective, orientation and/or focus and <br> how open and thoughtful people are about this <br> in the write up. The criteria are quite different <br> to quantitative research. In addition, there is a <br> long (legitimate) tradition of "emancipatory" <br> or advocacy research within qualitative <br> research - identifying and articulating <br> marginalised voices to emphasise their <br> particular needs. Within this context, <br> emphasizing where systems or people are, <br> rather than are not, homophobic (for example) <br> is completely legitimate. The language used to <br> articulate this - "at the mercy of" the <br> researcher, sounds very distrustful - do you <br> mean to be so? | "sources of bias and confusion"? Do you mean <br> it confuses you? - Not sure that this is an <br> appropriate term! |
| p.66 Removed (p.58). |  |  |
| p.66 | Are all the health behaviours you discuss <br> perceived as relevant to both gay men and <br> lesbians? Who identified these - health <br> professionals or LGBT community? | Identified by research of <br> LGBT individuals. For <br> most, but not all of the <br> behaviours mentioned <br> studies had been done in <br> both men and women. |
| p.66 | You say that you are "summarizing" the <br> literature - is this right? i.e. you have <br> summarised all the findings in all papers <br> without trying to synthesise them or <br> understand them in relation to each other or <br> interpret the findings? | Replaced with 'brings <br> together'. |
| 3.2 .6 | Rer |  |

$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|l|}\hline \text { Location } & \text { Comment } & \text { Response } \\ \hline & \begin{array}{l}\text { Again, it is not clear whether the focus on } \\ \text { barriers to healthcare is your imposed focus } \\ \text { and thematic organizer, or if this comes from } \\ \text { the primary research. Similarly for the list on } \\ \text { p.67. I would also have thought that it is } \\ \text { important to identify areas of agreement and } \\ \text { disagreement between key areas identified by } \\ \text { LGBT and the health professionals. }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { The focus comes from } \\ \text { the primary literature } \\ \text { identified from reading } \\ \text { the papers. }\end{array} \\ \text { By the headings, } \\ \text { whether the discussion } \\ \text { relates to } \\ \text { patients/professionals } \\ \text { has been added (p.60-61 } \\ \text { and p.73) }\end{array}\right\}$

| Location | Comment | Response |
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|  | In addition, given the focus of the review, there are distinctions to be drawn here, and in the following sections, between the impact of a homophobic culture generally (?and its impact on health) and the way that this is explicitly expressed in people's experiences of healthcare. | In this review, concepts relating to expression of homophobia in the healthcare setting were 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. <br> 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. |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { p. } 792^{\text {nd }} \\ & \text { para } \end{aligned}$ | - again - I think that this is your interpretation of the findings but these needs to be made clear. | Yes, it is my interpretation but that should be made clearer by the bit added on bottom page 59-60 (In the text, "Italics...). |


| Location | Comment | Response |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| p.82 | "suggestion that confidentiality not always <br> maintained" in 1st sentence paragraph 3 but <br> many examples quoted are about perceptions <br> or fears, rather than an actual breach? | Yes, have changed to: <br> "Participants in some <br> studies had concerns <br> about confidentially in <br> relation to their sexual <br> orientation". |
| Minor <br> points | There are some odd page breaks where Word <br> has done its weird thing of attaching cross <br> references to breaks in the figure/table label. | Yes we've tried to tackle <br> this - ongoing problem. |
| p.V. 1st <br> para | - "trans" in full in the abstract or put in the <br> Glossary? | This is explained in <br> section 2.1.2. |
| p.V 3rd <br> para | "circulated for comment" - to whom? | Now changed to "NHS <br> and academic <br> colleagues for <br> comments". |
| p.V | Methods says non-peer reviewed research was <br> excluded but results mentioned that <br> unpublished research was included - unclear <br> here although I know that this is explained in <br> greater detail in the review body (p.6-7) - it <br> would be helpful to have some more <br> explanation here is space. | Now reads "Included <br> were West Midlands <br> surveys, systematic <br> reviews with UK <br> studies and peer <br> reviewed and <br> published UK <br> quantitative and <br> qualitative primary <br> studies on LGBT <br> people reporting any <br> physical and mental <br> health outcomes, <br> health behaviours and <br> experience of <br> healthcare". |
| p.20 | Last sentence - would be helpful to repeat the <br> \% of LGB people taking medication here. | There was a general <br> difficulty of whether to <br> repeat tables in the text <br> or include general <br> population data in tables. <br> In the end, the latter has <br> been chosen. |
| p.V | Results section - there may not be room, but <br> some indication of the research designs and <br> focus would be helpful here? | These are in Appendix 5. |
| p.13 | It's not clear what a "category 2" ONS ques is. <br> will be presented, only quantative. | Footnote now added to <br> explain. |
| it. |  |  |


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

Britten, N., Campbell, R., Pope, C., Donovan, J., \& Morgan, M. 2002, "Using meta-ethnography to synthesise qualitative research: a worked example", J 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.

