**Subject:** BMJ - Decision on Manuscript ID BMJ.2017.039006

**Body:** 15-Jun-2017

Dear Mr. Sutaria

# BMJ.2017.039006 entitled "The end of the NHS and local government in England as we know them"

Thank you for letting us consider your resubmitted manuscript, which we read with interest.

It has been reviewed again by the editorial team and by our statistician.

If you are able to amend it in the light of our comments, we would be happy to work towards publication.

The statistical review is at the end of this email.

The editors' comments are listed below:

1) Editors felt that your revisions have improved the paper - it is now much focused, clearer, and easier to follow.

2) We felt in parts there is still some overstating of how much outsourcing and privatisation will ensue. We would prefer the article to be more open about uncertainty in this area, and note that reviewers had made this same comment on an earlier version of the manuscript

3) We would like to emphasise the points from our stats editor and ask that you make all data sources used in the article very clear

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I hope you will find the comments useful. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

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Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:

Reviewer: 1

Recommendation:

Comments:
This is an interesting article, and though quite dense, I think the arguments are well presented and supported by the tables and figures.

The text within the figures is too small and the font size needs to be increased. Perhaps using alternate years in the x-axes would help. The main text needs to refer to the tables. For example, page 5 line 26 "LA expenditure on adult social care increased annually" needs to refer to table 4; line 56 on page 4 needs to refer to table 3. I couldn't see the home care line within Figure 3. Table 1 would benefit from a totals column.

It was not possible to check all of the figures presented, for example those from LaingBuisson. It would be helpful to provide links to data sources where possible.

Page 4 line 31 - should be six-fold, not seven-fold.

Page 4 line 42 - "The expansion or and switch to private provision was the results of policies..." is not justified given the data presented. "coincided with" would be better.

Page 6 - please define what is meant by spending power.

Additional Questions:

Please enter your name: Katie Harron

Job Title: Assistant Professor

Institution: London School of Hygiene& Tropical Medicine

Reimbursement for attending a symposium?: No

A fee for speaking?: No

A fee for organising education?: No

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**Date Sent:** 15-Jun-2017