

## **Revision round #2**

Decision for round #2 : **Revision needed**

### **Very minor revisions**

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Dear authors,

Thank you for revising your manuscript following the reviewers' comments - I have only a few minor comments, which I think you can address within less than an hour of work. Once these are implemented, I will recommend the report.

**Thank you for your feedback. We've confirmed the changes that we've made point-by-point below for clarity.**

1) Unclear meaning of the word 'must' in the sentence 'Behavioural scientist seeking to...' Does 'must' mean that they have no other option if they do want to conduct a RoB assessment or more like 'should' as in that would be the best to do? If the former, then I think a better wording would be 'would have to', if the latter, then 'should' be a better option.

**Done.**

2) Sentence 'Crucially, biased studies are then...', is the 'outcomes' the best word to use here? Primary studies usually define outcomes, but for reviews or MA, think a better term would be 'results' or 'conclusions'.

**We changed "outcomes" to "conclusions" for clarity.**

3) In the sentence ' It is therefore important that systematic review...' would be better to say 'risk of bias OF each primary study'

**Done.**

4) In the sentence 'Instead, risk of bias and methodological quality...' you state that tools should allow for informed judgment on the scale and severity of the problem. However, to my knowledge, most of these tools do not quantify the problems but just detect that there is a risk of bias. How large the risk is and how it influences results is usually out of the scope of the tools. Maybe your intention here was something else?

**For clarity, when we say 'should allow' we are acknowledging that this is not how it is currently done, but instead paving the way for our stance on how we think tools should guide the**

interpretation of results. Therefore, we haven't changed this sentence as we believe that as-written is more accurately reflective of our perspective.

5) In the sentence 'The scientific process presented many challenges, and realistically...' I think you can remove 'in their entirety'.

Done.

6) in the criteria for the full-text screening, point 3, could this be 'one or more' of the following?

We added "or more" to the sentence.

7) in the text, please just state the number of benchmark articles you have used ('with a reference set of xx articles)

Done.