

**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Applicability of non-invasively collected matrices for human biomonitoring

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over

## **Cover letter**

**Title publication:** The applicability of non-invasively collected matrices for human biomonitoring

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## **Point-to-point responses**

- The abstract was rewritten based on the comments of the editor
- Where relevant, “levels” has been changed into “concentration”
- The section on the advantages of breast feeding (page 17) was included at the specific request of Reviewer G. Moy. If the editor feels it is out of place, we have no problem deleting it. However, this is a conflict of comments, so we would like to leave this for the Editor to decide...
- PCDD/F concentrations are expressed as pg TEQ/g lipid
- “PBT” was changed into “compounds” to better suit the text
- FeNO is a well documented and frequently used abbreviation for “fractional exhaled nitric oxide”.
- The section on metabonomics was shortened, and only the key message was withheld
- Hair as a calendar of exposure is mentioned in the first paragraph of “relevance a non-invasive biomarker”
- Information on the effect of hair color and the effect of hair treatment products was added to the relevant sections
- “environmentally unexposed” was changed into “control”
- Semen: although this is a non-invasively collected matrix, it has significant ethical issues, and is therefore not considered a good matrix for routine monitoring (although this depends on the research questions)
- The lengthy conclusion originated from a request from Reviewer Mutti. We have deleted the listing of possible questions, as we agree that they make the conclusions too broad.
- We have alphabetized the abbreviations, and added some that were still lacking
- The Author’s contributions are more detailed

- We have included the three tables in the text, which hopefully will lighten up the document.
- We've gone through the text in detail, and have deleted some redundant or least-necessary sections. This has reduced the amount of text by roughly three pages (although there visually is only a one page reduction as the three tables are included in the text now). Obviously, as we wanted to provide readers with a thorough review of non-invasively collected matrices (and the last 4 pages were included based upon the input from the Reviewers), we cannot reduce the text further without losing some of the key messages and illustrations.