# Appendix 1

Criteria for judging weight of evidence

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| Level/criterion  | Methodological quality | Methodological relevance | Topic relevance |
| 1: Excellent | Excellent research design with clear justification of all decisions: e.g. sample, instruments, analysis. Clear evidence of measures taken to maximise internal and external validity and reliability and reduce sources of bias. | Research questions (RQ) clearly stated. Methodology is highly relevant to their RQs and answers them in detail. | Study is very closely aligned to one of the key review objectives and provides very strong evidence upon which to base future policy/action. |
| 2: Good  | Research design clearly stated with evidence of sensible decisions taken to provide valid and reliable findings. | RQ are explicit or can be deduced from text. Findings address RQs. | Study is broadly in line with one of the key review objectives and provides useful evidence. |
| 3: Satisfactory | Research design may be implicit but appears sensible and likely to yield useful data. | RQs implicit but appear to be broadly matched by research design and findings. | At least part of the study findings is relevant to one of the key review objectives. |
| 4: Inadequate  | Research design not stated or contains flaws. | RQs not stated or not matched by design. | Study does not address any key research objective. |