Dear Editor

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript submitted to Animal Health and Therapy Reports.

I checked the manuscript entitled “Highly pathogenic avian influenza A H5 virus outbreaks in broiler farms in the Netherlands – Clinical signs, transmission and identification of reporting thresholds.”

In this study, the authors estimated the thresholds for reporting suspicions of HPAI outbreaks in broiler farms. They used mortality data and feed and water intake data on eight broiler farms infected with HPAIV. To estimate the thresholds of mortality rate and daily feed and water intake, they applied the GLMM model and LMM model, respectively, which were reported in a previous study (Gonzales et al., 2018). Moreover, they estimated the transmission rate of within-flock transmission of HPAI using a model method based on outbreak data on three farms by applying the approach reported by Hobbelen et al., 2020. The results showed that a daily mortality rate higher than 0.17% is an effective threshold for reporting suspicions of HPAI. The data of food and water intake were difficult to establish reliable thresholds for reporting HPAI suspicions. The estimated transmission rate of the within-flock transmission ranged from 1.1 to 2.0 per day, suggesting that the transmission in broiler herds seems slower than in layer flocks (the transmission rate > 4.4 per day in the previous study).

I think this manuscript is nice and interesting. The manuscript is described in a simple and straightforward style. However, I have some comments before acceptance.

Sincerely