Thank you for your comments, I have adjusted the draft following the advise given. See details below.

So going forward I think:

- Add supplementary sections S3 and S4 back into the original body.

Sections S3 and S4 has been added to the main document (see page12 and pages 14/15)

- Likewise with the 2 paragraphs 'In this paper, this approach is used to perform aggregate and detailed decomposition by....' into the original body

This paragraph has been added into the main text see page 10

- Remove the analysis of the income distribution a year later (following wave 5 of covid) but emphasis that this analysis looks at the short term polarisation of the income distribution.

The text and tables that refer to the wave 5 analysis has been removed and the fact that the paper looks at the short run effect has been emphasized in the abstract, introduction and the last paragraph of the conclusion.

- Extend the conclusion to talk about the potential long term effects, especially as South Africa has had 5 Covid waves. If possible, add as an addendum that preliminary investigations comparing Feb 2020 to May 2021 showed this and then describe the results. This would indicate that he has considered it.

The last paragraph in the concluding section has been extended to briefly discuss the analysis that incorporates wave 5.