

Minutes of the 54th meeting of the migration advisory committee on 19 April 2013

Chair: Professor David Metcalf CBE

**Attending: Professor Jonathan Wadsworth
Dr Jennifer Smith
Professor Jackline Wahba
Dr Martin Ruhs
Glyn Williams (Home Office)
Rod McLean (Office of the Chief Inspector of Borders and
Immigration)
Paul Barrett (Home Office)
Bill Parsons (Home Office)
MAC Secretariat**

Apologies: Lesley Giles (UKCES)

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. Apologies were received from Lesley Giles.

Agenda item 2 - Minutes of previous meeting held on 1 March 2013

2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 March 2013 were agreed without amendment.

Agenda item 3 – Presentations on Tier 1: Investor and Entrepreneur routes

3. Rod McLean gave a presentation on the remit and work of the Office of the Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration. In particular, he spoke about the current inspection of the Tier 1 Investor and Entrepreneur routes. Rod answered questions from the Committee on the methodology and scope of the work. Following this discussion, Rod left the meeting.
4. Paul Barrett gave a presentation setting out current Home Office policy for the Tier 1 Investors and Entrepreneurs routes, including the changes which came into force in January 2013. The Committee noted that Paper 54.1 (agenda item 4) provided further information on how these routes operated.
5. There followed a general discussion around the type of analysis and consideration the Committee could potentially provide were the Government to commission the Committee to look at these routes.

Agenda item 5 – Home Office and MAC secretariat policy items

6. Glyn Williams reported on behalf of the Home Office that the UK Border Agency had been split into three separate organisations. This is not

expected to impact on the activities of the Committee. Glyn reported that the most recent immigration rules came into place on 6 April 2013, including changes to the Codes of Practice and the shortage occupation list in response to recent reports by the Committee.

7. Bill Parsons from the Home Office Asylum, Criminality and Enforcement team joined the meeting.
8. Tim Harrison updated the Committee on behalf of the secretariat. Tim said that the Committee's report on schemes for employing seasonal migrant workers has been submitted to Ministers. It will be published in mid-May but the date is yet to be confirmed.
9. The Chair thanked the Committee and the Secretariat for their work on this report.
10. Dates for future MAC meetings were discussed and it was agreed in principle to meet on 23 July, 20 September, 18 October and 6 December, in addition to the upcoming dates agreed previously.
11. Committee members gave brief updates on activities they had undertaken in the previous month relevant to the Committee's work. The Chair also gave an update on relevant meetings and events he had attended.

Agenda item 6 – Presentation on Home Office work on low-skill

12. Bill Parsons gave a presentation on the multi-agency approach being taken to address issues which can involve or impact on migrants, particularly their impact on EU migrants, such as trafficking, exploitation of workers, tax avoidance, protection of vulnerable people and non-compliance with housing regulations. He explained that the Home Office is working with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, police, HM Revenue and Customs and others to identify specific problems affecting different regions and putting together appropriate taskforces to tackle these problems in a holistic manner.

Agenda item 7 – Paper 54.2 Initial proposals on how to gather evidence on the impacts of employment of migrants in low-skill work

13. Vanna Aldin presented paper 54.2 and asked the Committee for feedback on those areas of work they feel should be prioritised.
14. The meeting was interrupted due to a fire alarm. Bill Parsons left the meeting.
15. The Committee had a general discussion on the priorities for analysis in relation to any commission it might receive on low-skill work. The Secretariat was asked to produce a paper exploring different definitions of low-skill occupations for the next Committee meeting.

16. The Committee agreed that a review of existing literature on low-skill work was important. The Chair asked the Committee to forward relevant literature to the Secretariat.
17. The Committee agreed the other areas of analysis suggested and discussed potential different approaches.

Agenda item 8 – Paper 54.3 Update on the Migration Advisory Committee research programme

18. Vanna Aldin presented a paper which updated the Committee on progress on the current research projects and provided options for future research. Jonathan Wadsworth noted that in future it would be useful to have contractors present their findings to the Committee before the reports were finalised.
19. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to prioritise proposal 1 (further sectoral analysis) and proposal 4 (structural, cultural and skills issues preventing British nationals from taking up low-skilled work).
20. Jennifer Smith gave an update on discussions with the Bank of England concerning shared research interests and the potential for collaboration, and agreed to progress this further on behalf of the Committee.

Agenda item 9 - Any other business

21. There was no other business.
22. Next Committee meeting 24 May 2013.

**MAC secretariat
April 2013**