

Minutes of the 53rd meeting of the migration advisory committee on 1 March 2013

Chair: Professor David Metcalf CBE

Attending: Professor Jonathan Wadsworth
Dr Jennifer Smith
Professor Jackline Wahba
Lesley Giles (UKCES)
Glyn Williams (Home Office)
MAC Secretariat

Apologies: Dr Martin Ruhs

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. Apologies were received from Dr Martin Ruhs.

Agenda item 2 - Minutes of previous meeting held on 18 January 2013

2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 January 2013 were agreed without amendment.

Agenda item 3 - Oral policy updates: Home Office, MAC secretariat

3. Glyn Williams reported on behalf of the Home Office that the new immigration figures had just been released and showed a downturn in net migration. The Government would shortly be announcing its response to the Committee's reports on the codes of practice and on the shortage occupation list. Glyn also spoke about possible future commissions to the Committee from the Government and the sort of questions the Government might like to ask the Committee.
4. Tim Harrison updated the Committee on behalf of the secretariat. Tim said that the Committee's report on the review of the shortage occupation list had been published on 15 February. There followed a discussion on what might the Committee need to do to fulfil the possible future Government commissions.

Agenda item 4 – Paper 53.1 Update on SAWS/SBS review and draft report

5. David Metcalf made some preliminary remarks about the draft report before the Committee considered its contents in detail. He said that the report was still at a middle stage of its development and would benefit from further work in a number of areas that David had identified and discussed with the secretariat.

6. The Committee then considered each chapter of the draft report in turn and made a number of suggested changes to structure and content both at the meeting and in written responses. The Committee was told that a further draft of the report updating it to reflect their suggested amendments would be circulated by 14 March with a request for comments by 18 March. Following proofreading and typesetting, a final version of the report will be sent to the Government at around the end of the month.

Agenda item 5 – Paper 53.2 Update on the MAC current research projects and proposal for the 2013/14 research programme

7. Jocelyn Goldthorp gave an update on research commissioned in the 2012/13 financial year and presented a number of options for research in the 2013/14 financial year. Three research projects were currently underway. They had all been awarded to contractors and were all due to complete by the end of March 2013.
8. The Committee was presented with a number of research options for 2013/14 and had a discussion around the desirability and deliverability of each. A number of options were identified as desirable and the secretariat was asked to bring forward further fleshing out of these projects at the next Committee meeting.

Agenda item 6 – Paper 53.3 Update on MAC Governance issues

9. Cordella Dawson presented a paper which updated the Committee on progress on a number of issues relating to the arrangements for ensuring the Committee was an effectively-run body. These included the triennial review of the Committee, the migration of the Committee's website to a new location, and the production of a new annual report. A draft of the annual report was also provided to the Committee along with a draft register of interests and the Committee was asked to comment on both of these.

Agenda item 7: Any other business

10. There was no other business.
11. Next Committee meeting 19 April 2013.

**MAC secretariat
March 2013**