

Minutes of the 63rd meeting of the Migration Advisory Committee on 4 April 2014

Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

Attending: Dr Martin Ruhs
Dr Jennifer Smith
Professor Jonathan Wadsworth
Professor Jackline Wahba
Lesley Giles
Simon Dadd (Home Office)
John Thompson (Home Office)
MAC Secretariat

Apologies:

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. The Committee welcomed Simon Dadd, from the Home Office, to the meeting. An update was given of recent meetings attended by MAC members.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2014

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Agenda item 3 – Home Office and MAC secretariat policy updates – oral item

3. John Thompson gave an update on behalf of the Home Office (HO). He reported that the HO was continuing to look at sources of abuse within the immigration system and is considering the relationship between EU and non-EU migration. John also said that he has been taking MAC secretariat staff to various meetings with him to enable them to understand the policy context within which they are working. The Committee confirmed that it would be willing to offer members of John's team similar opportunities so that they can understand the economic dimension of the work.
4. Tim Harrison gave the update on behalf of the MAC secretariat. He reported that Christine Stone had been appointed to the EO post within the secretariat. He thanked Josephine Thomas for her efforts in ensuring that the secretariat's administrative work was adequately covered. Tim also confirmed that the MAC budget for the new financial year had been agreed and reported on changes to the government security classification system. Finally, the meeting was told that MAC work programme for 2014/15 is still under discussion.

Agenda item 4 - Paper 63.1: Update on the review of migrant employment in low-skilled work including initial draft chapters of report

5. Vanna Aldin from the secretariat introduced paper 63.1, which updated the MAC on progress on the low-skilled work and highlighted further partner engagement that had been carried out since the previous MAC meeting.
6. The Committee then considered specific chapters 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 updated drafts of these chapters reflecting their suggested amendments would be circulated by Thursday 17 April with a request for comments by the end of the following week.
7. Tim Harrison set out the detailed timetable for completion of this work. Following proofreading and typesetting, a final version of the report will be sent to the Government at the end of May.

Agenda item 5 - Any other business

8. There was no other business.

MAC secretariat

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