

**MINUTES OF THE 66th MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON 11 JULY 2014**

Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

Attending: Dr Martin Ruhs
Dr Jennifer Smith
Professor Jonathan Wadsworth
Professor Jackline Wahba
MAC Secretariat

Apologies: Lesley Giles
John Thompson (Home Office)

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. Apologies were received from Lesley Giles and John Thompson.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2014

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Agenda item 3 – MAC secretariat policy update – oral item

3. John Thompson was unable to attend the meeting and so there was no update from the Home Office.
4. Tim Harrison gave the update on behalf of the MAC secretariat. He provided details of upcoming staff changes within the secretariat. A summer student will join the secretariat for eight weeks. An additional Assistant Economist will begin working in the team by the autumn and Aashya Patel, who is currently on loan from the Ministry of Justice, will transfer permanently to the Home Office.
5. Tim also updated the Committee on the publication and dissemination of the MAC's report on migrants in low-skilled work. The press conference went well. However, it became clear during the event that some parts of the media had had access to the report's contents in advance and that this had naturally upset other parts of the print media. The full report, which was delivered to Government on 19 June, had not been passed to the press by the Committee or its secretariat. The Committee expressed its disappointment that the press was given access to the report while it was under embargo. The MAC has established a good working relationship with the press over the years and was concerned its independence and credibility might be damaged as a result of this incident. It was agreed there would be follow up to ensure there is no repeat of this.

6. The Committed was also informed about the appointment process to recruit a new MAC member who will replace Martin Ruhs when he steps down in November 2014.

Agenda item 4 - Paper 66.1: Update on the econometric work to complement the review of migrants in low-skilled work

7. The secretariat presented Paper 66.1 which provided a suggested timetable for the completion of this work. The Committee discussed the need to carry out a peer review and its probable timing. There was also a detailed discussion about the format of the GES/MAC joint conference on migration, which will take place on Friday 28 November 2014.

Paper 66.2 – MAC Annual report

8. Paper 66.2 was used to update the Committee on the production of the MAC Annual Report for 2013 – 2014 and outlined the arrangements for the Report's publication. Overall, the Committee was content with the text of the Report. However, it asked that the Report be explicit about the reasons for overspend in the MAC budget.

Paper 66.3– Draft MAC Work Programme 2014-15

9. In Paper 66.3 the Committee was provided with an update on the development of the MAC's work programme for 2014-15. The Home Secretary had agreed the proposed MAC commissions and agreement across Government will need to be sought before the MAC can officially commence work.

Paper 66.4 – Proposals for MAC research programme 2014-15

10. The secretariat tabled Paper 66.4 which presented some initial proposals for the MAC 2014-15 research programme. There was a discussion on whether the MAC could use the research budget to buy in expertise rather than formally commissioning a research project.

Agenda item 5 – Any other business

11. The date of the next meeting of the MAC is Friday, 19 September 2014. The Committee also agreed to meet on the following dates:

Friday, 24 October 2014

Friday, 5 December 2014