

MINUTES OF THE 69th MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON 5 DECEMBER 2014

Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

**Attending: Dr Jennifer Smith
Professor Jonathan Wadsworth
Professor Jackline Wahba
Lesley Giles
Gary Cook (Home Office)
MAC Secretariat**

Apologies: John Thompson (Home Office)

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. David Metcalf welcomed Paul Garner and Bethan Hunt to their first MAC meeting. Paul and Bethan have joined the MAC's secretariat and are new entrants to the Government Economic Service. Ciaran Devlin, Economic Advisor, who is expected to join the secretariat shortly, also attended the meeting.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2014

2. The minutes of the meeting on 24 October were not sent out previously due to an oversight. A copy of these will be sent to the Committee for comments before they are published on the MAC website.

Agenda item 3 – HO, MAC secretariat and Committee member oral update

3. Tim Harrison gave the update on behalf of the MAC secretariat. He provided details of upcoming staff changes within the secretariat. Ciaran Devlin, Economic Advisor, will join the secretariat as soon as the necessary administrative process has been completed.
4. The Home Office is currently carrying out a policy review which aims to streamline and redesign Home Office headquarter functions to ensure that the Department consistently produces high quality advice to Ministers, and responds better to changing political and operational priorities. The review will cover all policy areas, including operational policy and oversight of panels, committees, bodies, agencies and partners. However, it is not expected that the review will affect the MAC and other NDPBs.

5. Mike Anderson, Director General International and Immigration Policy, has announced that he will be leaving the Home Office at the end of February.
6. Tim Harrison also gave feedback on events he had attended including the OECD High Level Policy Forum which took place in Paris. Other MAC members provided an update on their own work. Lesley Giles confirmed that the UK Commission for Employment and Skills had published its report "Growth Through People", which looks into the UK skills system.
7. John Thompson was unable to attend the meeting and so Gary Cook provided a brief the update on behalf of the Home Office. He outlined some of the issues the department was considering in relation to the Points Based System routes.

Agenda item 4 - Oral update on MAC appointment process

8. Tim Harrison updated the MAC on the appointment process for a new MAC member to replace Martin Ruhs whose term on the Committee ended in November. Home Office Ministers are still considering the appointable candidates put forward to them in October.

Agenda item 5 - Oral update on MAC work programme

9. Tim Harrison explained that the MAC was still awaiting confirmation of its work programme for 2014-15, but that there is real potential that this will be agreed by early January. Nevertheless, MAC members again expressed their concern about the continued delay.

Agenda item 6 - Oral update on MAC research

10. Anna Lacey gave the oral update on MAC research. Expressions of interest had been received for a research project to evaluate existing migration forecasting methods and models. Tenders will be invited during the week of 8 December 2014 and it is envisaged that the contract awarded by mid January 2015.

Agenda item 7 - Paper 69.1: Update on econometric work

11. Anna Lacey presented this paper that asked the Committee to consider outstanding issues which could cause the timetable for publication of this work to slip. The Committee confirmed that the priority is that the work must be robust, therefore the deadline may be pushed back..

Agenda item 8 - Paper 69.2: MAC update on the partial review of shortage occupation list

12. Stephen Earl introduced this paper which set out the approach for the top down analysis; indicated meetings held to date with corporate partners and outlined some themes that had emerged. The Committee was also provided with three draft chapters of the MAC report.

Agenda item 8 – Any other business

13. The date of the next meeting of the MAC is Thursday 22 January 2014.

**MAC secretariat
December 2014**