

**MINUTES OF THE 70th MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON 22 JANUARY 2015**

Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

Attending: Dr Jennifer Smith
Professor Jonathan Wadsworth
Lesley Giles
Gary Cook (Home Office)
John Thompson (Home Office)
MAC Secretariat

Apologies: Professor Jackline Wahba

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. David Metcalf thanked Henna Akram on behalf of the MAC for her contribution during her time in the secretariat. He praised her quick learning and her efforts towards making the MAC such a successful institution, and wished her luck in her next post.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meetings held on 24 October and 5 December 2014

2. The MAC agreed the minutes for both of these meetings.

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

3. John Thompson gave the Home Office update. He provided details on the current wider debate on future immigration policy and the role the MAC might play in this, via its work programme, to ensure the provision of a sound evidence base. He also updated the Committee on the implementation of exit checks in April 2015.
4. Tim Harrison gave the update on behalf of the MAC secretariat. He provided details on the progress to date to agree a work programme for the MAC as well as the process for recruiting a replacement for Dr Martin Ruhs, whose term on the Committee came to an end in November 2014. He also informed the Committee of progress on the Home Office's current internal review of policy teams and its possible impact on the MAC secretariat.
5. There followed a discussion about the potential for the MAC to provide expert advice regarding the institutional and technical aspects of the MAC's work. The MAC is recognised by a number of countries across the world for being an exemplar model for providing an evidence base on immigration policy. The MAC has received a number of requests for

advice and it was agreed the secretariat would look into the issues around this, while ensuring any advice or work carried out by the MAC falls within the MAC's remit.

Agenda item 4 – Paper 70.1, MAC update on the partial review of the shortage occupation list

6. Stephen Earl introduced the paper, inviting the MAC to consider each of the draft chapters in turn. The aim to submit to the Government by 30 January was reiterated with a potential publication date towards the end of February 2015
7. The MAC discussed each chapter of the report in turn and offered detailed comments and suggestions. Each of the recommendations made in the report were agreed by the Committee.
8. The Committee agreed that a press conference should be held to announce publication of the report.

Agenda item 5 – Oral update on MAC research

9. Anna Lacey gave the oral update on MAC research which seeks to provide an evaluation of existing migration forecasting methods and models. The research is expected to include an empirical comparison of the *ex post* performance of various forecasting methods and conclude with policy recommendations related to the usefulness of various forecasting approaches for policy makers. A final decision on the choice of institution to undertake the project will be taken in the coming weeks pending further evaluation and discussion of the details of the proposal. The deadline for the research is to report in early May. The research report would then be published during summer 2015.

Agenda item 6 – Any other business

10. The MAC expressed their desire to read final drafts of each of the chapters of the shortage report following their comments at the meeting and in writing, with final copies agreed to be sent out the following week.
11. Dates for future MAC meetings were confirmed as follows:
 - 24 April 2015
 - 29 May 2015
 - 26 June 2015
 - 24 July 2015