

**MINUTES OF THE 72nd MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON 27 MARCH 2015**

Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

**Attending: Dr Jennifer Smith
Professor Jonathan Wadsworth
Professor Jackline Wahba
Professor Alan Manning
Lesley Giles
John Thompson (Home Office)
MAC Secretariat**

Apologies:

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. There were no apologies. The MAC Chair introduced the newly appointed MAC member, Professor Alan Manning, to his first MAC meeting. The Chair said that this meeting had a shorter formal agenda than previous meetings and was expected to end earlier.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2015

2. The MAC agreed the minutes for the February meeting.

Agenda item 3 – Home Office, MAC Secretariat and MAC members updates – oral item

3. John Thompson gave the Home Office update. He spoke about waiting to see how Home Office policy on immigration would be affected by the General Election and post-election period and how this might impact on future commissions coming to the MAC.
4. Tim Harrison gave the update on behalf of the MAC Secretariat. Tim talked about possible future work that the MAC could be asked to undertake and about discussions with the Malaysia Government about how a MAC-type body might operate in that country.
5. MAC members then gave an update on items of interest they had been engaged with. Lesley Giles highlighted a recent skills strategy document published by the UK Commission on Employment and Skills which looked at key skills challenges. The Chair asked that this publication be circulated to MAC members. Lesley also highlighted an upcoming UKCES conference from 24 to 26 June in Manchester which would look at international best practice in determining the development of local skills.

Agenda item 4 – Paper 72.1, Update on Entrepreneur commission

6. Stephen Earl introduced the paper which outlined the commission received from the government, updated the MAC about the publication of a call for evidence, set out a skeletal report outline and an initial draft project plan for completion of this work.
7. The MAC was invited to comment on anything discussed in the paper and to consider whether they wished, and were available, to attend the open forum meeting on 17 April. MAC members asked that the Secretariat consider contacting organisations such as 3i and banks who might be engaged in supplying funds to entrepreneurs and invite them to respond to the call for evidence. Members also asked that the Secretariat look to include information about unsuccessful Tier 1 applications as well as successful ones, and commented that it would be helpful to try and match any Companies House data as early as possible. The meeting discussed whether commercial data sources such as Experian could be used to supplement other information.
8. The Secretariat undertook to look into these matters and that it would have an agenda item for the next MAC meeting to consider whether there was a need to have two MAC meetings in September.

Agenda item 5 – Oral update on MAC research

9. Anna Lacey gave the oral update on MAC research and outlined the anticipated completion dates for current research. The MAC asked that a presentation on the findings be arranged for the meeting on 24 April.
10. MAC members asked that the definition of migrant used in the research not be limited to someone moving to the UK for longer than 12 months and that the available data sources be looked at to see what information could be provided, rather than excluded because they did not fit the international definition of migrant.

Agenda item 6 – Oral update on migration figures

11. This agenda item was covered during Tim Harrison's oral update on behalf of the MAC Secretariat. Tim explained that members of the Secretariat had been engaged in some work with Home Office colleagues looking at comparing the published migration figures with Home Office figures on visa applications.

Agenda item 7 – Any other business

12. There was no other business.