

## **Minutes of the 74th meeting of the Migration Advisory Committee on 29 May 2015**

**Chair:** Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

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

**Apologies:** Lesley Giles  
Professor Jonathan Wadsworth

### **Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions**

1. There were apologies from Leslie Giles and Professor Jonathan Wadsworth.

### **Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2015**

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

### **Agenda item 3 – MAC, Home Office and MAC secretariat updates – oral item**

3. MAC members gave an update on items of interest they had been engaged with. Jennifer attended a meeting with the IPPR to discuss a project due to run into early 2016 which may provide some vacancy data that the MAC could potentially utilise in the future.
4. Tim Harrison gave the update on behalf of the MAC Secretariat. Tim announced that he and Ciaran Devlin will be attending an OECD working party meeting.
5. John Thompson then gave the Home Office update. He spoke about net migration statistics and the announcements made in the Prime Minister's recent speech on immigration.

### **Agenda item 4 – Paper 74.2, Update on future MAC work**

6. Tim Harrison then introduced a paper which looked at the latest developments around a work programme for 2015. Since the Prime Minister's speech, Home Office officials have been working with counterparts across Government to draft the details of a commission for the MAC to review the Tier 2 visa route. The objective of this commission would be to reduce inflows of non-EEA economic migrants

and their dependants.

7. The commission is still in the drafting stages and may be subject to some change. John Thompson informed the Committee that the Immigration Taskforce is to have its first meeting in the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June, during which the details of the commission will hopefully be confirmed.

#### **Agenda item 5 – Paper 74.1, Update on Entrepreneur commission**

8. Ciaran Devlin then updated the Committee on the progress with the Entrepreneur commission. This outlined the stakeholder events that have been held with UKTI, accelerators, and representatives of the finance and start-up sectors. Further engagement is planned with a number of law firms, members of the entrepreneur community, and other government departments.
9. This paper also outlined the progress made in the drafting of the report, the gathering of additional data from Companies House, and some emerging issues which the MAC may wish to consider. There was some discussion about the admissions criteria that ought to be used, with emphasis upon their relative subjectivity and their potential trade-off with the financial threshold.
10. Ciaran Devlin outlined the aims for the secretariat to produce a synthesis of the evidence received for the MAC meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. Ciaran also aims to provide the Committee with a draft report with some early recommendations for the MAC meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **Agenda item 6 – Oral update on MAC governance**

11. Tim Harrison spoke about the continuing discussions around the status of the MAC and the role it may have in the future. There was discussion on the potential for change in the skills composition of the Committee to perhaps incorporate expertise from other areas of economics or from different academic spheres.

#### **Agenda item 7 – Any other business**

12. The following dates were agreed upon for MAC meetings later this year: 11<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 20<sup>th</sup> November, and the 10<sup>th</sup> December.
13. There was no other business.