

Minutes of the 75th meeting of the Migration Advisory Committee on 26 June 2015

Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

Attending: Dr Jennifer Smith
Professor Jackline Wahba
Professor Jonathan Wadsworth
John Thompson (Home Office)
MAC Secretariat

Apologies: Lesley Giles
Professor Alan Manning

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. There were apologies from Leslie Giles and Professor Alan Manning.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2015

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

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

3. Tim Harrison gave the update on behalf of the MAC Secretariat. Tim talked about the meeting of a working party of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development that he and Ciaran Devlin from the secretariat attended.
4. Tim gave an update on two new starters to the secretariat, Caroline O'loughlin a summer intern from Exeter University and Emily Fowler, a sandwich student from Sussex University, starting in August.
5. John Thompson gave an update on behalf of the Home Office about the most recent net migration statistics and the immigration task force.

Agenda item 4 – Paper 75.1: Update on Entrepreneur commission

6. Ciaran Devlin then updated the Committee on progress with the Entrepreneur commission. The call for evidence had now closed and there has been comprehensive evidence received from law firms, investment advisors and other interest groups. There was still further engagement planned with various angel investors, venture capital firms and officials from Canada, New Zealand and Denmark to discuss the entrepreneur route.

7. The MAC were also informed about emerging findings from the data matching from Companies House and the Inter Departmental Business Register. The team planned to visit Sheffield caseworkers again to have a more detailed look at applications.
8. A full draft of the report would be produced for the MAC meeting on 24 July.

Agenda item 5– Paper 75.2: Update on the Tier 2 review

11. Anna Lacey introduced a paper on the MAC commission to review Tier 2. The paper outlined that the commission was split into two parts. The first part was to provide early advice on salary thresholds and the second part a wider review of Tier 2.
12. Anna informed the committee that the call for evidence had been issued for the salary thresholds part of the commission and that there have already been meetings with partners to discuss the review. An open forum with partners was due to be held 13 July at the BIS conference suite and the committee were encouraged to attend upcoming partner meetings where possible.
13. A draft structure for the salary thresholds report was presented and early emerging issues were shared with the committee to consider. Paul Garner provided an update on the data analysis from the draft report.
14. A draft of the call for evidence for the wider Tier 2 review was then presented and the committee were invited to comment on its content and structure.

Agenda item 6 – Update on future MAC work

15. The research report from Southampton University is expected by the end of June. The next MAC meeting will focus on the external research for the coming year.

Agenda item 7 – Any other business

16. The next meeting on 24 July will be chaired by Jonathan Wadsworth.