

Minutes of the 78th meeting of the Migration Advisory Committee on 16 October 2015

Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

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

Apologies: Lesley Giles

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. There were apologies from Lesley Giles.
2. The Chair confirmed that Bethan Hunt will be leaving to work at the Ministry of Justice. He thanked her for her contribution during her time in the secretariat, particularly on the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) report, and he wished her well in her new job and also into the future.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2015

3. The MAC agreed the minutes for the September meeting.

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

4. Tim Harrison updated the MAC on behalf of the secretariat. He also thanked Bethan for her contribution and wished her good luck in her future role. Tim confirmed that the Government had commissioned the MAC to conduct a partial review of the Shortage Occupation List focussing on nurses, due to report to Government by mid-February 2015. Tim gave a brief background of the rationale for this review and outlined the process for taking the work forward.
5. John Thompson, on behalf of the Home Office, also provided the MAC with an update on the new commission. He said that he welcomed the Tier 1 (Entrepreneurs) report and thanked the Committee and secretariat for their work on this.
6. Committee members provided an update on meetings and work that they had been involved in on behalf of the MAC. David Metcalf confirmed that he had been invited to appear before both the Immigration Bill Committee and the Home Affairs Select Committee on 20 October 2015.

Agenda item 4 – Paper 78.1: update on the Tier 2 review

7. Anna Lacey updated the Committee on progress on the wider Tier 2 commission. The call for evidence closed on 25 September and over 250 pieces of evidence were received.
8. Committee members each gave a presentation on the evidence for their chapters. They then outlined the key issues and potential next steps that they wished to see the secretariat take forward in working up outline chapters for consideration at the next MAC meeting.
9. Chapter outlines will be sent to the Committee for comments prior to the next MAC meeting on 20 November.

Agenda item 5 – Future MAC research

10. Tim Harrison circulated proposals for commissioning external research for the current financial year. Following a discussion with the Committee it was agreed to launch an invitation to tender for a research project focusing on the demand for and the supply of foreign-born nurses in the UK. The intention is for this work to run parallel to and feed into the SOL review of nurses.

Agenda item 6 – Any other business

11. No other business.