

Minutes of the 82nd meeting of the Migration Advisory Committee on 4 March 2016

Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

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

Apologies: Lesley Giles

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. There were apologies from Lesley Giles.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2016

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

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

3. Tim Harrison updated the committee on the secretariat's activities including the ongoing review of nursing shortages. MAC members were then invited to give updates on their work. David Metcalf acknowledged Jonathan Wadsworth's significant contribution to the MAC over the last 9 years.

Agenda item 4 – Oral update on MAC nurses report

4. Stephen Earl provided an update on the MAC nurses report, including the submission to Ministers, and outlined the plans to publish the report. Baljit Khinder provided an update on the progress of the external research being carried out by the Institute for Employment Studies. She explained that we are awaiting the final report which will be reviewed by the secretariat and the steering group for this research project.

Agenda item 5 – Paper 82.1 MAC shortage methodology

5. Ciaran Devlin presented a paper setting out why the MAC may consider it timely to undertake a review of the shortage methodology and outlining initial thinking around how the Secretariat propose to carry out the work. Ciaran set out that the last review of the shortage methodology was in 2010 and since then has only undergone slight revision. The discussion focused on three main areas: the broad approach; data; and benchmarks. The MAC agreed that further work should be undertaken to review the methodology, with a more detailed paper to be presented at the next MAC meeting.

Agenda item 7 – Any other business

6. David gave his thanks to John Thompson on behalf of the Committee for his work and engagement over the last 2½ years. The Committee agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 17 March and instead meet on 22 April.